comics
· INTERNATIONAL ·

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CIRCULATION: 11,000

Batman v Predator

TWO LARGER than life film and comics characters clash in a new combined title from Dark Horse and DC Comics.

To be released as a three issue prestige format mini-series, **Batman versus Predator** promises cover-to-cover action, with no advertising interrupting its 32 pages of story.

As **Predator** has been under licence from 20th Century Fox to Dark Horse Comics and **Batman** is an established DC character, it is intended that Dark Horse will publish the team-up and DC will distribute.

Dave Gibbons to scriptwrite

Working for editor Diana Schutz as writer of the series is top British creator Dave Gibbons, while art is being handled by Andy and Adam Kubert, with Bat-curator Denny O'Neil liaising editorially on behalf of DC.

Selected by editor Schutz, Dave Gibbons had already produced considerable work for DC, including Batman in the recent **World's Finest** mini-series, and had built up a solid relationship with Dark Horse through the **Give Me Liberty** trilogy.

But what probably clinched his acquiring the high profile assignment was his **Watchmen** work.

As Dave told **Comics International**, "The man who, at the time, had the final say for Fox on any **Predator** projects was Joel Silver. I'd met Silver earlier through the proposed **Watchmen** movie, so my name and work must have rung a bell."

Speaking highly of Dark Horse, Dave added, "The whole reason they've got the entire **Aliens, Predator, Indiana Jones** group of film series is that they're very creative publishers. They've come up with ideas that neither film companies or comics publishers had thought of before.

"They're both grotesque, larger-than-life creatures of action," — Dave Gibbons.

"The classic it's nearest to is Road Runner v Wily Coyote."

Dave added that he believed it was a logical next step for Dark Horse to team up with the wider-established DC team on their two hot properties.

On writing the project he added, "Obviously there are restrictions. It's a matter of compromise to a certain extent. Although when you're going to call a comic book **Batman versus Predator**, you've a pretty good idea of what the content will be.

"The classic it's nearest to is Road Runner v Wily Coyote," he said. "I want to get as exciting a confrontation as I can. They're both grotesque, larger-than-life creatures of action, they have certain similarities. Predator even has a version of Batman's utility belt."

Stressing that he wanted to keep the mythos of each faithful, Dave Gibbons continued, "We've already seen Predator in the jungle and contemporary Los Angeles. I want to put the story in a classic Batman setting, a film noir 1940s Gotham City. Without that, there's no point including Batman. It's the background against which you put **Predator** that makes it interesting, not the big guy who takes him on."

A long-time fan of the Dark Knight, Dave intends to utilise all the traditional elements, the Bat Signal, Commissioner Gordon, the Batcave and the Batmobile, "set deep in Batman's world" as he puts it.

While no cover price or release date has yet been set, it is expected that the series will be produced with heavier than usual card covers, in the format DC recently employed on **World Without End.**

COMICS INTERNATIONAL

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NEWS america

Davis back on Batman

DELVING once more into the past of the Dark Knight, DC is releasing **Batman: Full Circle** as a prestige format 64 page one-shot late May.

Written by Mike Barr, author of **Batman and the Outsiders, Camelot 3000** and various recent Batman stories, the title will be drawn by the British team of Alan Davis (pencils) and Mark Farmer (inks).

A long-awaited sequel to **Batman: Year Two**, the story reintroduces the Reaper character, who had previously been stopped from continuing his own twisted sense of justice by Batman teaming up with Joe Chill, the man who had murdered Bruce Wayne's parents.

In Mark Farmer, penciller Alan Davis has found a more than suitable replacement for his old colleague Paul Neary, now editorially occupied at Marvel UK. The finished product still allows Davis's sense of melodrama and character to shine through, and is possibly the nearest yet seen to Davis inking his own work.

A tightly written, caringly crafted work with some of Alan Davis's top work for years, **Batman: Full Circle** ships May 21 and carries a $5.95 price.

Compiled by Dez Skinn

New readers: begin here

***Comics International** is a monthly news and reviews paper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of upcoming UK and US comics and related items.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through normal newsagent shops, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist stores and mail order companies. Details of such are scattered throughout the magazine in advertisements, and a listing of the major comics shops is given in our Retail Index.

***Shipping dates** mentioned for American titles are the dates publications leave their US or Canadian printers to be air-freighted to the UK for specialist shops. These dates, and titles, do not relate to newsagent on-sale dates.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are detailed with their UK price in our Advance Listings section, and are on sale approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with "advance imports".

***American dollar prices** are listed for US publications, with most specialists charging around 60p to the dollar. UK newsstand prices do not necessarily reflect this rate of exchange on titles they carry.*

DC's Terminator goes solo

FROM THE pages of the **New Titans** comes DC's latest on-going superhero series, **Deathstroke, The Terminator.**

One of the most popular of the Titans' supporting cast, Slade Wilson also known as The Terminator first appeared in **The New Teen Titans** 2 (December, 1980) and has rivalled the popularity of several of the Titans team members ever since.

A new format $1.75 monthly, **Deathstroke, The Terminator** will follow on from the current **Titans** storyline "Titans Hunt" in which the character plays a major role.

Written by creator Marv Wolfman, the series will be pencilled by **Checkmate**'s Steve Erwin and inked by **New Gods**' Will Blyberg with **Punisher**'s Mike Zeck providing covers.

The first issue begins with Wilson's ex-wife, Adeline, critically wounded while guarding a topsecret shipment of plutonium.

Deathstroke, the ultimate mercenary and killing machine, takes on the challenge to find out who took the plutonium, and why, as well as to mete out punishment against his ex-wife's attackers.

Issue 1 of **Deathstroke, the Terminator** ships June 11.

Tank Girl: take two

FOR THOSE who missed her in **Deadline,** Dark Horse's **Tank Girl** reprint 4-part series begins shipping in May.

The black & white 32 page title is priced $2.25

IN BRIEF

DESPITE THE cash crisis of 1991 brought about through both the recession and the Middle East War, Marvel will be doubling the frequency of many titles for the summer months.

But this year the programme is being expanded to run from May through to November.

The first titles to go 'almost fortnightly' will be **Captain America, Wolverine, Avengers** and **Silver Surfer,** each containing a 6-issue continuing story across their bi-weekly run.

Wolverine will feature Logan going into the Morlock tunnels to see for himself if Sabretooth is really dead, while **The Avengers** features a mutiny aboard The Collector's ship, as many of his 'prizes' no longer wish to be part of his collection.

The Collector's ship crashing on the moon directly involves the Inhumans, who call in the Avengers to help out.

While the **Captain America** six-parter completes the hero's anniversary celebrations, the **Silver Surfer** issues will tie in with Marvel's annual cross-over series, **The Infinity Gauntlet.**

ROBIN SEQUEL

MAKING her Bat-writing debut, Louise Simonson is creating a sequel to the 5-part **Robin** mini-series for **Batman** 467.

The story tells how King Snake didn't die in Hong Kong at the end of the mini-series, but has come to Gotham City seeking revenge.

With art by John Fern, **Batman 467** is priced $1.00 and ships on July 9.

CANCELLATIONS

DC's **The New Gods** is cancelled with issue 28, shipping May. The same month will see the final issue of Marvel's **The Transformers** (number 80).

BATMAN SUNDAYS

FOLLOWING the success of the DC/Kitchen Sink co-produced **Batman: The Dailies** comes the inevitable **Batman: The Sunday Classics.**

This 208 page trade paperback features 156 pages of actual reproductions from the strips as well as bios and photos of all the artists and writers of this 1940s work and promo ads from the time.

Measuring 9x12", **Batman: The Sunday Classics** ships June 11 with a $19.95 price.

TOO GOOD TO LAST

WITH the break-up of the original partnership behind the EC colour reprint series (see last issue), Extra-Large Comics has been created as a new publishing imprint for the EC titles.

Instead of the top-value $1.95 titles, June will see the release of a new EC reprint line, 10x13" sized in full colour:

O **MAD Volume 1,** behind a new cover, reprints the first six issues of the title with a $20 cover price.

O **Vault of Horror** 1 reprints **Vault** 28 and **Weird Science** 18 with a $3.95 cover price.

Unlike the Gladstone series, original ads, text pieces and 1950s letters pages will also be reprinted. The Extra-Large line-up will also include **Tales from the Crypt** and **The Haunt of Fear.**

...RY SPECIAL

ONE OF Innovation's most popular **Hero Alliance** characters, Sentry, appears in a one-shot colour **Sentry Special** this May.

Behind a Bart Sears & Bill Anderson cover, the issue is by Bob Ingersoll and Ted Naifeh of **Gene Wolfe's The Shadow of the Torturer.** Scott Rockwell provides airbrushed colouring.

Sentry Special carries a $2.75 cover price.

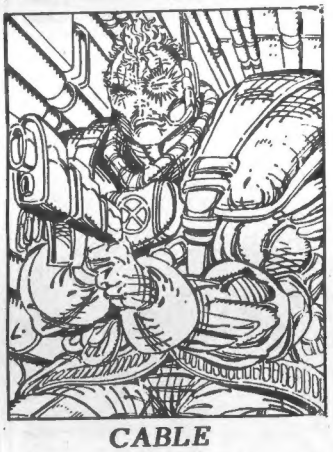
MILLER'S SIN CITY

Sin City is ™ and © 1991 Frank Miller. All rights reserved.

FRANK MILLER continues his association with Dark Horse through his episodic "Sin City" story appearing in **Dark Horse Presents.**

The 112 page 5th anniversary issue of the magazine, on sale this month, begins the series, which will continue when the monthly reverts to its normal 32 page format next month.

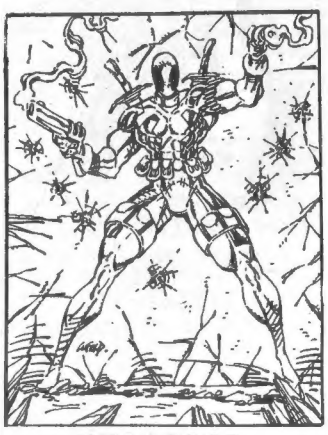
Marvel's new mutant line-up X-Force, X-Men and more



CABLE

SUNSPOT & GIDEON

SHATTERSTAR



DEADPOOL

MARVEL began its trade coverage of the June shipping mutant titles with the comment to retailers, "You know that Porsche you always wanted? Well, start placing your orders, because June marks the beginning of the Mutant Genesis".

With purchasing budgets totally blown away, retailers are currently ordering the following staggering number of hot summer titles.

● **Uncanny X-Men Annual** 15, also shipping June 4 takes up the Claremont & Paul Smith story with Fabian Nicieza and Tom Raney presenting "King of Pain". The new X-Force team and New Warriors travel to Muir Island to stop Harness and Piecemeal from resurrecting Proteus, while back-up strip (Nicieze & Gerald DeCare features "The Killing Stroke" part 2 of 3. This story tells of Freedom Force's destruction, leading up to the formation of the all-new **X-Factor** team. $2

● **Uncanny X-Men 279.** Shipping June 4, this one starts events rolling as Xavier gathers a team to save his X-Men from the Shadow King. $1.00

● **Wolverine 43** marks another of the big mutant changes taking place in June as the truth between Wolverine and Sabretooth is revealed. Shipping June 11, the issue is by Larry Hama, Mark Silvestri and Dan Green and is priced $1.75

● **X-Factor Annual 6,** ships June 11, by Nicieza and Terry Shoemaker, and concludes the "King of Pain" storyline. X-Factor comes to the rescue of the New Warriors, X-Force and the Muir Island group in an attempt to defeat the revived Proteus. $2.00

● **New Mutants 100** goes to a second printing for June 18, hitting the stores one week before **X-Force 1.** $1.50

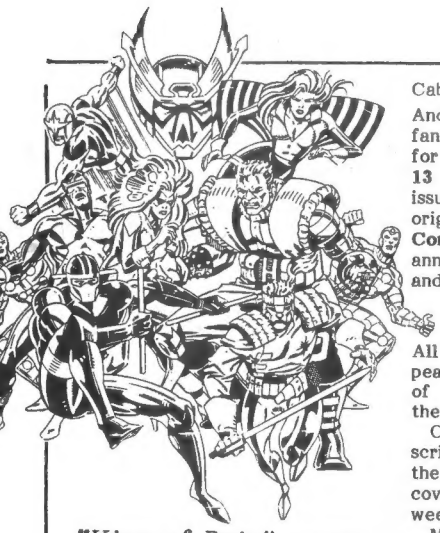
● **Excalibur 40,** by Scott Lobdel and Dave Hooper retells the origins of the mutant team members, in preparation for the return of creator Alan Davis in issue 40. $1.75

● **X-Factor 69,** shipping June 25, by Claremont, Lee, Portacio and Thibert, has Professor X gathering together his first students to save the X-Men from the Shadow King and is the current team's final appearance before joining the X-Men. $1.00

● **X-Force 1** finally ships on June 25, by Rob Liefeld and Fabian Nicieza, beginning "The Mutant Genesis".

The old New Mutants have left their old school and struck out on their own, establishing their new headquarters in an old Sentinels base in the Adirondacks. But they are soon thrust into battle with Stryfe and the Mutant Liberation Front.

Each and every copy of **X-Force 1** will be shipped pre-bagged, with each containing a free trading card showing one of the members of the



"King of Pain" - cast of characters.

Cable's X-Force.

And if that doesn't keep mutant fans happy, Marvel also has for June **Knights of Pendragon 13** (with a John Bolton cover), issues 82 and 83 of the continuing origin of Wolverine in **Marvel Comics** and a UK hardback annual reprinting **X-Men** 132 and 133.

THE X-MEN

All the mutant reshuffling will peak in August with the release of five different editions of the new **X-Men 1.**

Chris Claremont will provide scripts for artist Jim Lee and the title will ship with different covers across the full five-week month.

Modifying their **Spider-Man** multi-edition launch of last year, Marvel is staggering the X-editions to avoid a glut the same week. Each edition of **X-Men** will feature a different member on the cover of the first four weeks issues, with week five having an extravaganza of a cover — a double gatefold, opening out to reprint the covers of all four earlier weeks' editions.

Based on their orders in this futures market, speculating retailers may not be able to buy that Porsche, but if they get their sums wrong and over-order, they might not be around for too much longer.

Care to gamble?

new team.

The cards, which will not be available elsewhere, will be inserted between the comic and the bag, so buyers can see which card they will get with their copy.

Marvel is shipping equal quantities of each card-carrying copy, so completist collectors can obtain a full set of cards by buying five copies of the title.

A graduation extravaganza, 1991 marks the year when Xavier's New Mutants become

Wolverine and Fury rematch

IN ADDITION to the wave of mutant material for June, Marvel is also releasing a new Wolverine graphic novel: **Bloody Choices.**

A sequal to Goodwin and Chaykin's **Scorpio Connection** (which has a second edition shipping June 25), this new book is by Tom DeFalco and John Buscema.

Priced $12.95, it features a second clash between Lgan and Fury as they both track down Bullfinch.

Wolverine: Bloody Choices ships June 25.

IN BRIEF

FOLLOWING an association which indirectly led to a comics competitor, DC is not renewing its publishing licence with top fantasy games makers TSR.

It is unknown at this stage whether TSR, who launched their own range of titles to a lukewarm reception, will be continuing the DC-licensed line. (MCC)

SOLAR ACTIVITY

FOLLOWING their relaunch of **Magnus, Robot Fighter,** Jim Shooter's Valiant Comics has **Solar, Man of the Atom** scheduled to launch in June.

By the team of Shooter (script), Perlin & Layton (art), the first four issues will feature the story "Second Death".

The first eight issues will also include an insert serialising the origin of Solar in eight 4-page instalments, backed by part of a poster of Solar.

When assembled, the poster will be a massive 41x53".

Both poster and origin insert art is by Barry Windsor-Smith.

Solar 1 will carry a $1.75 cover price.

RIGHTS WRANGLE

WHILE Eclipse and Fantagraphics continue to fight over who has the rights to publish **Little Nemo** books, Eclipse is now under attack over **Krazy Kat.**

Remco's Rick Marschall is preparing a **Kat** series for Kitchen Sink and claims that Eclipse has no rights to publisher their series.

Rocketeer is also causing publishing rights problems. Both Comico and Eclipse are looking to reprint their titles featuring the character currently being marketed as a major Disney film, but there appears to be uncertainty rights granted in the past to these companies can still be excercised.

The fate of Matt Wagner's **Grendel** is equally unclear. The character had been created for Comico, with whom Wagner refuses to work; and it now appears that the Batman/Grendel crossover may be the only new story to feature Grendel.

MARVEL FINANCE

RONALD Perelman, owner of Marvel Comics is reported to be wanting to sell his biggest asset, Revlon Cosmetics, and is believed to have approached both Unilever and Proctor & Gamble.

It is understood that in selling such a large asset, Perelman would reduce his current liabilities.

SEIZURES

CANADIAN distributor Andromeda has cut back on many titles it was importing across the border following four crates of comics being seized from Wisconsin-based The Collector's Exchange.

It is understood the raid took place following a parent complaining about a teenager having been sold a copy of Frank Miller's **Hardboiled** issue 2.

The raid resulted in the entire staff being charged with obscenityrelated offenses and over 400 adult comics and graphic novels being taken.

LOGAN v HULK

MARVEL is reprinting the popular Peter David & Todd McFarlane Hulk story "Ground Zero" as a $12.95 trade paperback.

Taking the storyline from issues 340-346, the book ships June 18.

SAGE BOOK II

DC's Piranha Press is releasing **Epicurus the Sage Book 2** in May, priced $9.95.

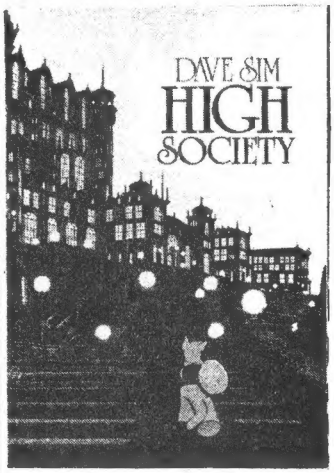
By William Messner-Loebs and Sam Kieth, this 48-page mature readers colour edition has the sage setting out to track down Zeus, who has been making passionate visits to Danae, despite the girl's father's attempts to keep him away.

IN BRIEF

THE US edition of **Judge Dredd: The Megazine** will hit America in June.

A reprint of the UK edition, but scaled down to fit US racking, it will carry the hefty cover price of $4.95.

512 PAGE CEREBUS



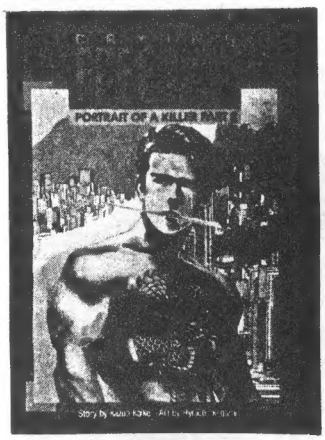
CEREBUS: High Society trade paperback . Dave Sim's mammoth 512 page reprint of **Cerebus** 26-50 ships June as a black and white softcover priced $25.00.

BACK IN THE CAGE

FOLLOWING a back and forth confusion between Tundra and Britain's Mad Love Publishing, artist Dave McKean will no longer be producing the art for Alan Moore's **Big Numbers.**

Instead, his cancelled Tundra series, **Cages,** has been rescheduled and will continue from issue 3.

CRYING FREEMAN



VIZ Communications' mini-saga of the East's most dangerous assassin concludes in **Crying Freeman: Portrait of a Killer Part 2.**

Shipping in May, the adult title by Koike and Ikegami carries a $16.95 cover price and contains 240 black and white pages.

SEX JOURNAL

PRESENTING a potentially-biased viewpoint, Eros Comics' partner Fantagraphics Books is featuring a special "Sex in Comics" issue of **The Comics Journal.**

Shipping in May, the 120 page issue interviews Alan Moore, Donald (Anton Drek) Simpson, Robert Crumb, Reed Waller, Kate Worley and others.

Comics Journal 143 carries a $4.95 cover price.

LYNCHED

DAVID LYNCH is contributing **The Angriest Dog in the World** comic strip to Dark Horse's **Cheval Noir,** beginning in issue 20, on sale July.

The strip had been appearing in the pages of the **Los Angeles Weekly,** but had not been seen generally outside of that area.

Lynch is, of course, best known for his tv and movie work, specifically **Eraserhead, Blue Velvet, Wild at Heart, Dune, Elephant Man** and **Twin Peaks.**

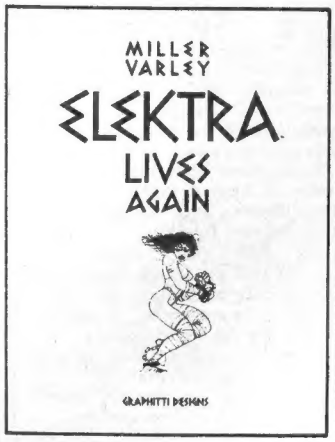
The $3.95 80-page black and white issue also features the continuation of Haldeman & Marvano's **Forever War Book 3** adaptation, plus work by Jacques Tardi, Geof Darrow and Rick Geary.

With a cover by John Bolton, the title ships on July 9.

DP SWITCH

SIMON Bisley and Vince Giarrano have replaced Brendan McCarthy as artists on **Doom Patrol** 45.

AGAIN AGAIN



THE exquisitely produced Graphitti limited editions continue with another top title.

Elektra Lives Again is a 2500 limited edition, signed by both Frank Miller and Lynn Varley and includes a new eight page text section, unused art and new art on the book's signature plate. Shipping June 25, it carries a $49.95 cover price.

LOST IN SCHEDULES

INNOVATION's new **Lost in Space** title has been rescheduled for a May launch.

Writers for the series now include Bill Mumy (who played Will Robinson), David Campiti, and Terry Collins.

Full colour throughout, with art by Eddy Newell, the title carries a $2.50 cover price.

DC MOVE UP

DC COMICS has moved out of their 666 Fifth Avenue location to 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019.

A...A REVOLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES TOO? WHY??...WE'VE GOT FREEDOM HERE!
FREEDOM!? HAH.. HERE YOU HAVE A CLASS SYSTEM... AN OPPRESSION THAT WILL NEED A WORLD-WIDE REVOLUTION TO ABOLISH!
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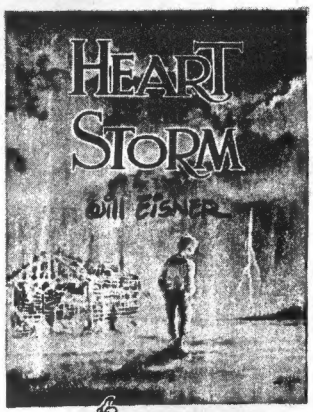
THAT IS WHY ALL JEWS MUST SUPPORT OUR CAUSE...IT'S THEIR ONLY CHANCE TO SURVIVE!
WOW
MEANWHILE... CAN YOU COME BACK ON FRIDAY?..ER, WE CAN SORTA SPEND AFTER SCHOOL OUT ON THE RAFT.!!

Eisner's Heart

To The Heart of the Storm is a new graphic novel from comics master Will Eisner, published by Kitchen Sink and shipping in May.

Largely autobiographical, it covers a family's history against a background of war and prejudice.

With 208 black and white comic-size pages it is available as a softcover ($14.95), a hard-back ($24.95) and a 900-run signed and numbered hardback (priced $39.95).



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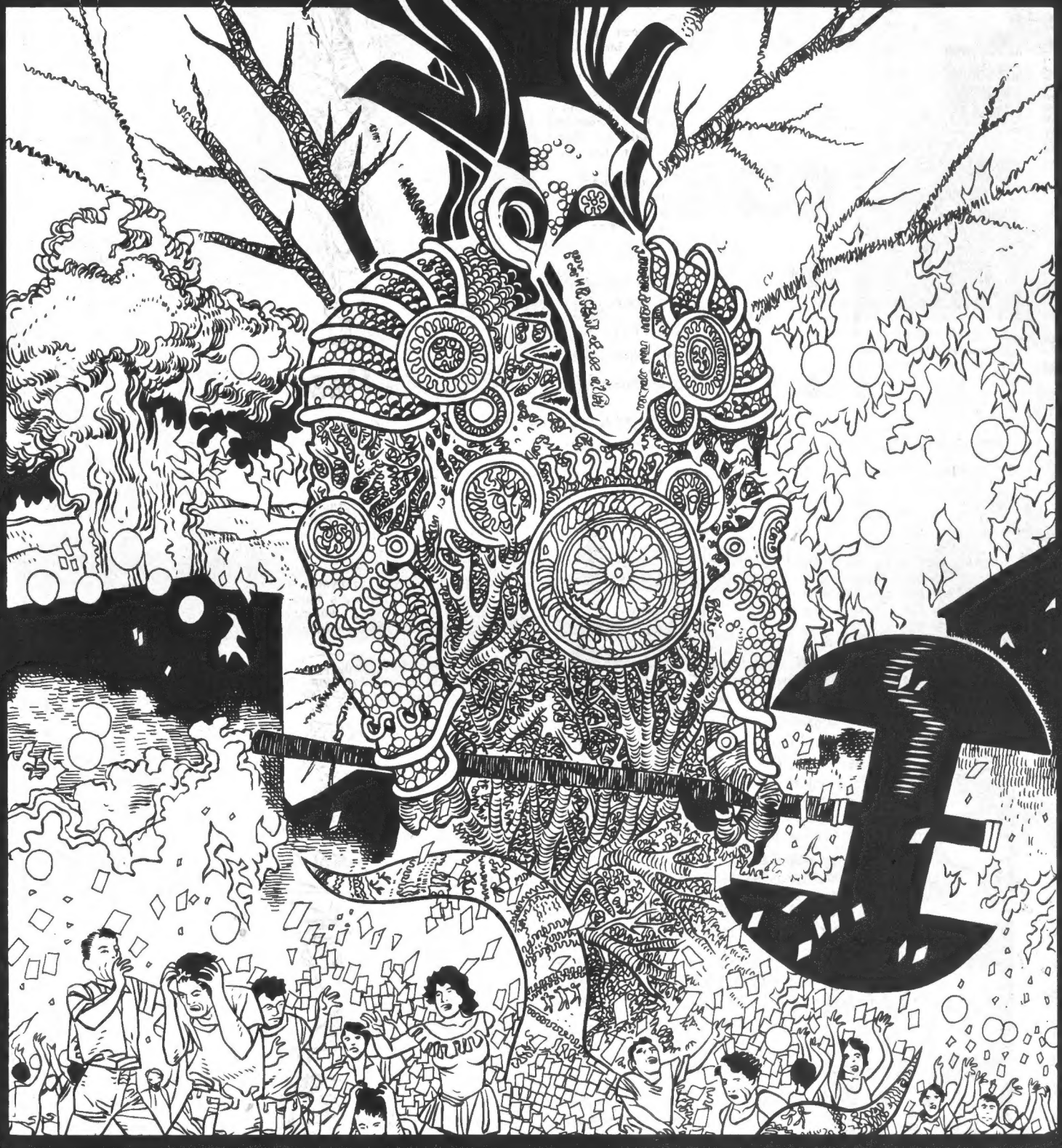
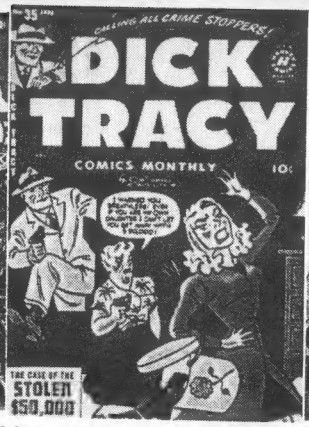
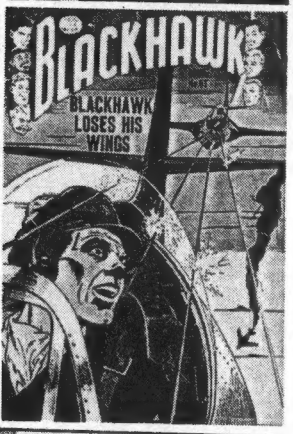


Future appearances by Iron Man, Black Panther, Fantastic Four. Covers by John Bolton, Simon Bisley, Colin MacNeil. Monthly. 95p. Marvel.®





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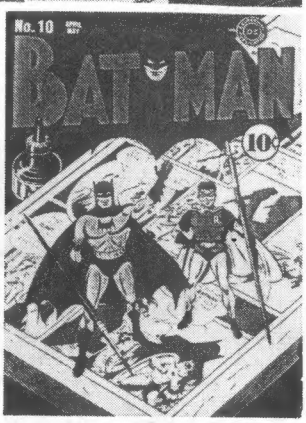
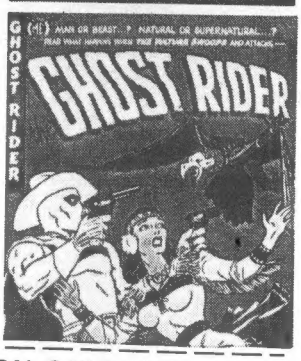


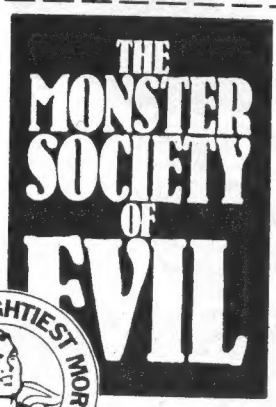


Gary K. Wolf, Harvard, MA (Author and creator of Roger Rabbit Characters)
"Your Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books is one of the best pieces of research material I've ever encountered. I shudder to think of the work that must have gone into it".

Richard Gray, Enfield, NH, Editor "Current Comics"
"Until you see it, this book is unbelievable. After you see it, it is still unbelievable! OH WOW! describes it very nicely".

Frank Nuessel, Professor, University of Louisville, KY
"At first I wasn't sure that I wanted to spend that much on a book. Now, however, I know that my money was well spent. You have done an excellent job and you really know comics. Thanks for this important contribution to the field".

Steve Andrew, Comics 'N' Stuff – Amarillo, TX
My customers and I are all delighted with your book. It's beautiful to see covers of comics that we've heard about, read about, but have never seen!



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Captain Marvel is one of the classic super heroes from the golden age of comics. Back in the 40's a long 25 chapter serial was published in the Captain Marvel comic book and now that serial has been collected together under one cover for the first time ever! This special limited 3000 copy edition is a must for the serious collector and is destined to be a collector's item in the years to come. Collecting all the original comics to obtain this serial would cost around $2000 these days, so add a real classic to your bookshelf!

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Now you read it, now you don't

FOLLOWING the hiatus caused by the **Comics International** story on the Blue Lizard misprint copies of **Spider-Man 1**, the magazine has had several calls about other misprint copies, yellow, purple and more.

But the most unusual **Spider-Man** printing foul-up has been reported by Siegi's Comics of Canterbury.

Issue 7's "Masques Part 2" story has the most unusual alternative splash spread. Siegi sent us two copies of the issue, one totally normal, but the other with two extra pieces of speech balloon copy at the top of page two.

In a totally different style of lettering, the copy goes on at length about a computer game called "Tank".

Obviously of no value to anyone other than a boo-boo fan, it brings into question the amount of slip-ups and the seeming lack of attention being paid to Marvel's hottest title since the **X-Men.**

New heads for Piranha Press

POSSIBLY attempting to make the line more commercial, DC's Piranha Press has two new managing editors replacing Mark Nevelow, who made no secret of his personal dislike for conventional comics.

Epic's Margaret Clark, following an aborted move to the UK's Apocalypse Comics, joins Andy Hefler to rework the Piranha line-up.

Beautiful Stories for Ugly Children, the sole success under Mark Nevelow, had been switched from a regular sized title into an album format, but is now being converted back into a more accessable 32 page monthly.

Fast Forward, already the title of a successful UK tv-teen magazine, will be a four-issue limited anthology series with work by Grant Morrison, Dave McKean, Kyle Baker and others.

Given the close links Clark has established with author Clive Barker, **Primal,** originally announced as an Apocalypse title by Barker, may resurface under the Piranha imprint.

IN BRIEF

LAST SEEN as a 1983 Warren character, **Vampirella** returns courtesy of Dark Horse and Harris Publications.

The **Vapirella Trade Paperback** is a142-page squarebound collection by Archie Goodwin, Tom Sutton and Jose Gonzales, with new cover art by Jim Steranko and Paul Gulacy.

Priced $12.95, the book ships in July.

IMPACT WHO'S WHO

TO CELEBRATE the launch of its new Impact imprint, DC is issuing a limited series of **Impact Who's Who.**

In the same loose leaf format as the DC series, the two 'issues' will be available in August and September, a month after the $3.50 **Who's Who Binder,** which will be available July.

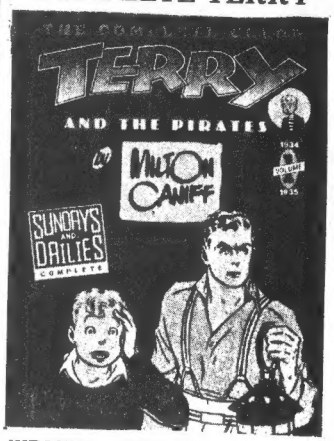
BLACK CAT CELEBS

RECOLLECTIONS Comics continues its part-colour reprinting of old Harvey strips with a 50th anniversary celebration in **The Original Black Cat 6.**

Reprinting the Black Cat's first-ever appearance (from **Pocket Comics 1**) by Alfred Harvey and Al Gabriele, the issue also includes a Lee Elias strip and "Who's Who" from **Black Cat 1.**

Shipping in May, the issue carries a $2.00 cover price.

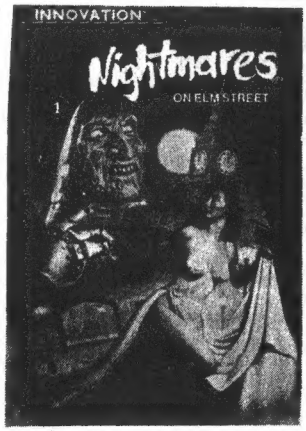
COMPLETE TERRY



KITCHEN SINK is presenting a reprint of the complete run of Caniff's famous strip in **The Complete Color Terry & The Pirates.**

Volume 1, priced $34.95, is an 8x13" hardback, covering the first strip (22/10/34) to 3/8/35 in its 96 pages.

Foreward is by Jules Feiffer.



INNOVATION has acquired the rights to an ongoing **Nightmares on Elm Street** comics series.

For mature readers, the $2.50 colour title begins shipping May and is by Mangels, Gomez and Witherby.

TRACY ADVENTURES

DICK Tracy Adventures 1 is a 72 page reprint of the 1942 confrontation between Tracy and B. B. Eyes, a ruthless black market racketeer.

Published by Gladstone, this new colour series has a $4.95 price and ships in May.

NOW THEN

FOLLOWING their filing of bankruptcy papers, Now Comics may yet be saved as a company has come forward offering to buy some of Now's assets, including the company's publishing name.

The Now mark is owned by Caputo Publishing, headed by Tony Caputo.

The would-be 'saviors' of Now are B. J. Acquisitions, which is owned by the principals of General Learning Co and Tony Caputo.

If no objections are made to the transfer of these assets, BJ Acquisitions will be free to publish Now Comics with Caputo, but without the debts currently owed by Caputo Publishing.

Assets of the company were estimated at $300,000 and liabilities at $1,400,000, a $1.1 million difference, with over 4,000 creditors including attorneys, accountants, the IRS, printers and distributors.

IN BRIEF

THE OFT-QUOTED inspiration for Superman, Philip Wylie's science fiction novel **The Gladiator** is once again to be adapted into comics.

Previously published in comic form in the black & white magazine **Marvel Preview 9** (1976) under the title "Man God", the 1991 adaptation will be for Adventure Comics by **Cat & Mouse** writer Roland Mann and artist Howard Simpson. The full colour miniseries has yet to be scheduled.

SWAMP THING: NEW SCRIPTER

FOLLOWING the lukewarm reception given to Malcolm Wheeler, **Swamp Thing** gains a new writer with the character's sixth annual story.

An award-winning novelist and longtime Louisiana resident, new writer Nancy A. Collins is best known for her **Tempter** and **Sunglasses After Dark** books, and will be making her comics debut on **Swamp Thing.**

Together with new penciller Bill Jaaska of **Sable, X-Men** and **Shade,** she will continue the annual storyline into **Swamp Thing 110** as the lead characters return to the Louisiana swamps to find a bizarre creature composes of the bodies of four murdered people is stalking the area.

Swamp Thing Annual, priced $2.95, ships June 18. **Swamp Thing** 110, priced $1.75, ships June 25.

LATEST LEGENDS

'FAITH' will be a new 3-part series beginning in **Batman: Legend of the Dark Knight** 21.

By Mike Barr (script), Bart Sears (pencils) and Randy Elliott (inks), the story tells of a righteous vigilante squad following in the Dark Knight's footsteps to clean up Gotham City.

While Batman supports them, his long-time confidante Leslie Thompkins condemns both them and Batman too.

Priced $1.75, **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight** 21 ships July 2.

GERBER BK III

FOLLOWING his painstakingly researched **Photo Journal Guide to Comic Books** Volumes 1 and 2, Ernst Gerber Publishing has announced the release of a Marvel edition as volume 3.

This edition will feature full colour reproductions of every single Marvel comic from 1961 to the late 1970s, with some exceptional 1980s covers also included.

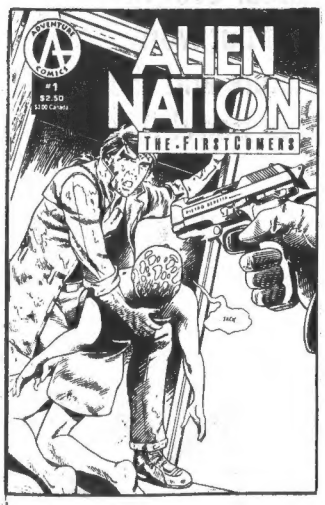
From **Amazing Fantasy** 15 to **Giant-Size X-Men 1,** the book also catalogues relative values, issue dates, artists and a scarcity index.

There are also included detailed chapters on Collecting, Buying, Selling, Grading, Value & Investment, Storage & Preservation, Restoration and the Social & Historical Impact of Comics.

Produced by Ernst & Mary Gerber, **The Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books Volume III: Marvel** is being released as a $129.95 deluxe hardcover and a $49.95 softcover in June.

It is anticipated that Hawk Books, who handled the previous **Photo Journals** for the UK, will have copies available of the third volume late June.

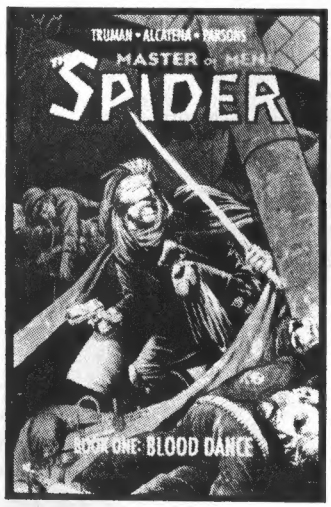
THE FIRSTCOMERS



ADVENTURE COMICS is releasing a new **Alien Nation** mini-series for May distribution.

The Firstcomers will be told across four parts by Powell, Eldred and Pepoy with a $2.50 cover price.

SPIDER REVAMPED



ECLIPSE has a 3-issue 48 page prestige format version of the pulp hero, **The Spider,** scheduled to start this month.

By Truman, Alcatena and Parsons, the character was an initial inspiration for Marvel UK's **Night-Raven.**

NAM MAN GOES MIDDLE EAST

DON LOMAX, chronicler of Apple Comics Viet Nam titles, has produced a 'grunt's eye view of the unfolding war drama in the Middle East'.

Desert Storm Journal 1 is a 32 page b&w May release priced $2.75.

New Rocketeer

WHILE we have no news about whether it will make it to the UK, Dark Horse is producing a new **Rocketeer** comicbook by Dave Stevens and Mike Kaluta.

The new title is set for a July launch.

Barks & Kane in Harvey line-up

THE newly numbered Harvey reprint series begins shipping in May, and consists of:

- **Felix The Cat** (by Otto Messmer) priced $1.25
- Tom & Jerry (by Carl Barks) priced $1.25
- **Hot Stuff 1** (Kremer & Post) priced $1.00
- **Woody Woodpecker** 1 $1.25

All are full colour 32 page titles.

Casper Digest begins from issue 1 as a 96 page $1.75 title and **Monster in My Pocket** acquires the talent of veteran artist Gil Kane from issue 3 (May, $1.25).

Four more titles from A-Plus

A-PLUS COMICS, licensee to the Charlton and ACG archives of 1950s and 1960s comics, is adding four more titles to their line-up for May release.

- **Arik Khan** is a 48 page black and white sword and sorcery serieis, featuring the work of Frank Reyes, Pete Constanza and Ogden Whitney.
- **Cowboy Sahib** retells a Leonard Starr ACG series featuring the exploits of a WW2 pilot in post-war India.
- **Forbidden Worlds** resurrects the vintage ACG title, which originally ran to 145 issues from 1951 to 1967. The first issue features art by Sam Glanzman, the Day Brothers, Jim Aparo and Steve Ditko.
- **Six Gun Heroes** resurrects the Charlton western heroes with issue one including Cheyenne Kid (Severin), Black Fury (Ditko), Masked Raider (Morisi), Gunmaster (Giordano) plus work by Al Williamson.

As well as the company's continuing **Adventures into the Unknown, Herbie, Swords of Valor** and **War,** all titles are 48 page black and white and are priced $2.50.

Davis good stuff

FOLLOWING the 1987 **Art of Jack Davis** book, compiler Hank Harrison has produced **Jack Davis: Some of My Good Stuff** for publishers Stabur.

The 112 page volume, with 16 pages in full colour includes 149 never before published illustrations by the acclaimed contributor to EC's horror and science fiction comics, **MAD** and **Time** magazine.

The all-new softcover edition has a cover price of $12.95, and Stabur is also offering a collector's edition hardback, signed and numbered (250 only) in a deluxe gold-stamped leatherette binding at $59.95.

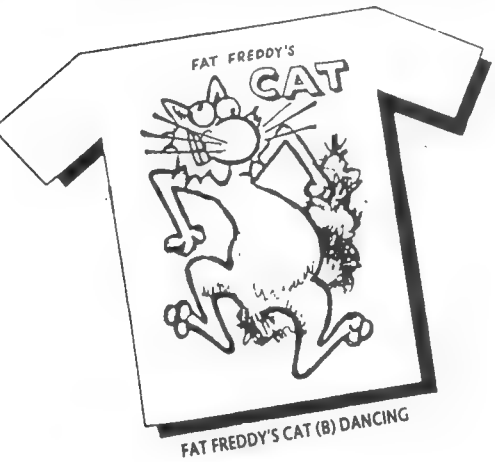
While the softcover is now being shipped, the deluxe hardback is only available from Stabur Corporation, 11904 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

They can be contacted direct on 0101 313 425 7930.

KNOCKABOUT T-shirts

KNOCKABOUT COMICS, 10 ACKLAM ROAD, LONDON W10 5QZ
£7.99 each including VAT, postage and packing.
Wholesale enquiries welcome. Phone 081 969 2945

These T-shirts are not your usual run-of-the-mill exploitation item. They are lovingly handcrafted by genuine persons in spiffy three or four-colour designs. These shirts are intended only for the true Fans. Why you may ask? Because it takes so long to get 'em. Sometimes we run out of a size and can't get more for up to 2 months. The printing process takes weeks and months as our skilled craftpersons labour over their fine-meshed screens. It's a long wait but worth it. Our shirts are high quality and the picture and shape will stay until the shirt rots on your body! (if that's your idea of a good time)



FAT FREDDY'S CAT (B) DANCING

FAT FREDDY'S CAT (C) CRAZY

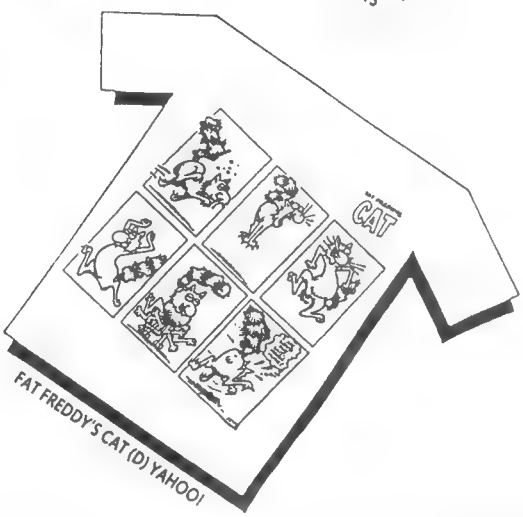
FAT FREDDY'S CAT (A) LOGO

FREAK BROTHERS (A) HEADS

FREAK BROTHERS (D) THE COPS!

FREAK BROTHERS (B) GRASS ROOTS

STONED AGAIN!



FAT FREDDY'S CAT (D) YAHOO!

*** PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE IS ON A SATURDAY ***

COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE
SPECIAL EDITION

1991

SATURDAY JUNE 15

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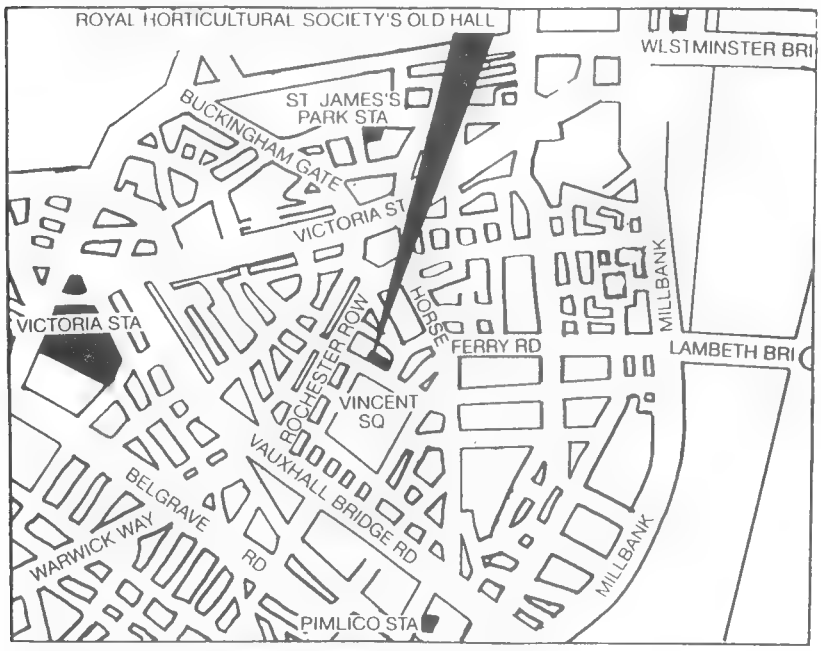
The Comicbook Marketplace Special Edition will be Europe's largest marketplace for collectors of comicbooks and related items, including S.F., fantasy, film and T.V. materials. Over 150 tables packed with around a quarter of a million comicbooks and magazines from Britain's top dealers.

An independently run refreshment centre and bar will be open in the dealers room.

For information on table availability contact:
Barrie Roness on 081 871 2773.



HOW TO GET THERE BUS: 2, 2B, 36 36A, 36B, 185 to Vauxhall Bridge Road. 10, 76 to Horseferry Road. 11, 24, 29, 70 to Victoria Street. 16, 25, 38, 39, 52, 52A, 82 to Victoria Station.
UNDERGROUND: District Line to St. James's Park or Victoria. Victoria Line to Pimlico or Victoria. BRITISH RAIL: To Victoria. The venue is then just a short walk away.

EUROPE'S LARGEST MARKETPLACE FOR COMICBOOK COLLECTORS

GARDEN OF EDEN
THERE WERE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE BEAUTY OF THAT PLANET WE WENT BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM EXPECTING ANYTHING BUT WHAT WE FOUND--PARADISE!
SAY! LOOK WHAT'S COMING BACK WITH CAPTAIN JAMES--A GIRL!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!--LIKE EVERYTHING ON THIS PLANET!
I'M KIP ROGERS, SPACEMAN 1ST CLASS! --DOOLEY FORBES, CAPTAIN JAMES AND I WERE A SURVEY TEAM, SORT OF ADVANCE SCOUTS FOR EARTH'S EXPANSION TO THE OUTER STAR SYSTEMS...
WOW, CAPTAIN! WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?
SHE FOUND ME! A ONE GAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE--AND GUESS WHAT?
HE MEANS I SPEAK YOUR NATIVE TONGUE. I AM ANIZAAR! I GREET YOU!

New Simon & Kirby album

CRESTWOOD/II is producing a second Joe Simon trade paperback, following the appalling **The Comic Book Makers.**

Joe & Jack's Excellent Adventure Comics will be a compilation of (Joe) Simon and (Jack) Kirby strips originally produced for Harvey Comics during the 1950s and 1960s, drawn by Burgos, Powell, Tuska, Williamson, Meskin, Draut, Torres and Severin, as well as Simon & Kirby.

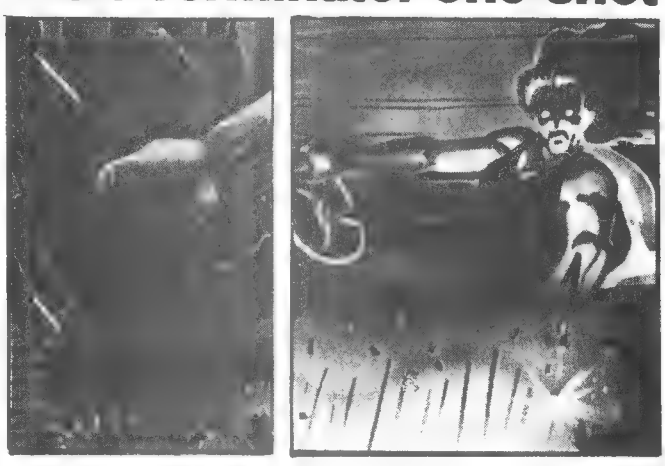
As Crestwood/II is Joe Simon's own publishing company, and his son Jim Simon helps with the compilation, the book runs the same risk of total subjectivity which was the downfall of **The Comic Book Makers.**

Each of the strips reprinted (all from original art) features an introduction by Joe Simon, giving the readers an inside look at comic-book makers at work.

Also in production from the same company are reprints of the Simon & Kirby 1959 comics, **The Fly** and **The Secret Life of Private Strong** (originally published as **The Double Life of Private Strong**).

No prices or release dates have yet been determined.

New Terminator one-shot



BRITISH writer James Robinson of **London's Dark** has teamed with **Grendel's** Matt Wagner to produce a 48 page colour oneshot **The Terminator** for Dark Horse Comics.

Priced $5.95, it will ship to the UK in June.

IN BRIEF

TWO new Bat-related trade paperbacks will reach Britain early May.

The New Robin Trade Paperback reprints the recent 5-issue series and the **Batman** 455-457 trilogy behind a Brian Bolland cover, priced $4.95

The Catwoman Trade Paperback, at half the size of the **Robin** book reprints the 4-issue **Catwoman** mini-series with a $9.95 cover price.

Both editions are softcover and 7x10" standard comic size.

DARK HORSE

CONSOLIDATING its position as the biggest independent comics publisher in America, Dark Horse has a wide range of new product for 1991.

- **The Thing from Another World** by screenwriter Chuck Pfarrer and **World Without End's** John Higgins.
- **Billi 99** by Sarah Byam of **Black Canary** and **Challengers'** Tim Sale.
- **Aliens 3 Movie Adaptation** by Steven Grant and Denis Beauvais.
- **Badlands** -- political intrigue by Steven Grant and Vince Giarrano.
- **Concrete: Fragile Creature** by Paul Chadwick.
- **Almuric,** a new RE Howard character mini-series by Roy Thomas and Mark Winchell.
- **Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis** by William Messner-Loebs, Dan Barry and Karl Kesel.
- **Terminator: Secondary Objectives** (tentative title) by Paul Gulacy and Karl Kesel from a James Robinson script, 4-part mini beginning in July.

GLOWING

WHILE unannounced when retailers ordered the issue, next month's **Ghost Rider** will glow in the dark.

The cover to **Ghost Rider** 15 uses luminous ink to create an eerie luminous effect, while inside the title thebattle between Ghost Rider and the original Johnny Blaze version of the character reaches its climax.

RIP OFF OFF

BORN IN 1977, **Rip Off Comix** is to cease with its 31st issue, shipping 'on or around June' according to co-publisher Kathe Todd.

Sales, which were in the region of 20,000 in the 1970s had always been poor compared with **Freak Brothers,** which sold over 50,000 a year in America alone. But by the late 1980s sales had dropped to well below 4000, resulting in little income for contributors.

The final issue will feature a "wheels" theme which is to include a new "Gilbert Shelton's Motoring Tips" a bicycling story by Chris Harmon and a killer car story by The Pizz.

With other adult humour titles such as Kitchen Sink's **Snarf** and Last Gasp's **Weirdo** having already folded, the death of **Rip off Comix** is seen as a major blow to a once-thriving alternative comics industry.

FLASH TV SPECIAL

MISSING the peak of the **Flash** tv popularity, DC's **Flash TV Special** ships to the UK on May 28, with 80 colour pages and a $3.95 price.

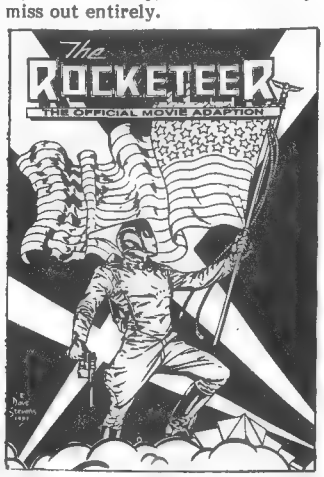
Set in TV continuity, it features stories about Barry Allen by John Byrne and Mark Waid with art by **Ghost Rider's** Javier Saltares, David Williams and Gary Martin.

The special is rounded off by photos, behind-the-scenes profiles and sketches by Joe Kubert, Bolland, Infantino, McFarlane and others.

DISNEY ROCKETEER

DISNEY Comics has produced a 64 page colour **Rocketeer Graphic Novel** by Peter David and Russ Heath priced $5.95.

With the existing ban on UK importing of Disney products, this May shipping title should not be generally available in Britain, and since Fleetway's failure to complete the last Disney adventure movie tie-in, **Dick Tracy,** UK fans may miss out entirely.



To rub further salt in fans' wounds, Disney is also producing a May shipping Neal Adams **Rocketeer** title. A 48 page 3-D one-off, it carries a $7.98 cover price.

MIRACLEMAN

AS THE "Golden Age" storyline concludes with **Miracleman** 22, shipping May, the issue also acts as a lead-in to the next 6-part tale, "The Silver Age".

By Gaiman and Buckingham, the title carries a $2.50 cover price.

ALAN DAVIS SPEAKS

AMAZING HEROES 191, shipping May, is a 100 page issue featuring an interview with Alan Davis on his return to Marvel's **Excalibur.**

The comic-sized magazine carries a $3.95 cover price.

NEXUS LIBERATED

ONE OF First Comics' revised titles, **Nexus,** ships June as the first in a two-part $4.95 mini-series.

Nexus the Liberator is a 48 page colour prestige format title by Petrucha, Calimee and Nyberg.

COMIC MARTS

BRITAIN'S TOP DEALERS SELLING THOUSANDS OF COMICS, TV/FILM MAGAZINES, BOOKS, POSTERS & ALL KINDS OF SF/FANTASY MATERIAL

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SATURDAY: MAY 25th, JULY 20th

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CREST HOTEL, LORD NELSON STREET, LIVERPOOL
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SHEFFIELD
MAIN HALL, SHEFFIELD POLYTECHNIC, HOWARD STREET
SATURDAY: APRIL 13th, JULY 6th

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SATURDAY: JUNE 8th, SEPTEMBER 14th

DEALERS ENQUIRIES WELCOME
SAE FOR FULL DETAILS & MAP:
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OPENS MIDDAY

WATCHMEN

OCTOBER 87

WATCHMEN No. 12 of 12

- Complete original 32 page artwork for sale.
- Each page, measuring 15¾" × 10", is signed by Dave Gibbons with letter of authenticity.
- Each page is accompanied by its own hand-coloured proof page.
- Offers are invited for each or any of the 32 individual pages at a reserve price of £200 per page.
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London NW1 0NJ England
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DC add newsstand Impact

WHILE Marvel Comics has kept a strong link with its newsstand roots over the years, DC has been noticeably drifting away to the point where many jokingly refer to the company as "the biggest independent comics publisher".

Of Marvel's 71 April on-sale titles, 31 of them are standard $1.00 titles, but of DC's 60 releases only 15 carry a $1.00 price. That's 44% against 25%.

There can be no doubt that the direct sale, non-returnable comic shops offer a far safer market for publishers, as opposed to newsstands, where over 30% is considered an acceptable level for the traditionally returnable titles. But if new casual readers are not actively sought out through newsstands, there will be no one to grow into the next generation of comic shop customers.

Cynics may argue that the high volume Marvel produces for national newsstand distribution boosts their circulation figures when appealing to advertisers. But whatever the reason, newsstands provide a vital long-term birthplace for tomorrow's fans.

Perhaps recognising their reliance on older readers and fans, DC is making a major move to redress the balance.

Following its restructuring of the Superman titles, the company is making a major newsstand youth market attack at the end of May.

IMPACT

Continuing a tradition which began in the 1940s, DC has taken an entire line of characters from another company and is updating them for a 1991 audience.

Licensing from Archie Comics, DC is bringing back the MLJ/Archie/Mighty/Red Circle group of heroes.

Traditional fans will be alienated by the drastic revisions made, but DC is setting its sights totally on attracting new readers to comics with its back-to-basics approach of clearly defined heroes and villains, straightforward story-telling and uncluttered artwork, all existing outside of the already-confused post **Crisis** DC Universe.

LEGEND OF THE SHIELD

While Marvel's **Captain America** is widely recognised as the ultimate patriotic super-hero, few realise that he was predated by Irv Novick's January 1940 star of MLJ/Archie's **Pep Comics** 1, The Shield.

As Archie attempted to follow DC in the 1950s superhero rebirth, with Simon & Kirby revamping the character in **The Double Life of Private Strong** (June, 1959, 2 issues) and introducing **The Adventures of The Fly** (August 1959, 31 issues), it seems appropriate that DC now tries its hand with the characters.

Legend of the Shield 1, with the character's costume based on the original 1940s version, rather than the short-lived 1950s revamp, is plotted and pencilled by Grant Miehm, currently producing the **Justice Society** mini-series.

Dialogued by DC editor Mark Waid, the title is inked by **LEGION '91**'s Jeff Albrecht.

While owing nothing to the Simon & Kirby rendition, the somewhat basic and characterless art is strongly grounded in the later inking style of Steve Ditko and, given the relative inexperience of its creators, is a strange choice to introduce a new line of titles.

PROJECT: SHIELD HAS GIVEN YOU A CHANCE TO REDEEM YOURSELF, JOE. DO SOMETHING WITH IT.
MAKE YOURSELF PROUD. MAKE YOUR COUNTRY PROUD.

While DC succeeded admirably with its Julius Schwartz-led superhero revival of the 1950s, the ability of editor Schwartz's team was almost without equal. Creators like Joe Kubert, Gardner Fox, Carmine Infantino, John Broome, Robert Kanigher and

Murphy Anderson were already seasoned professionals. Already masters of their craft, their artistic influences were from a more classical background. Given the limitations of newspaper strips, prose and short six page strips, they brought a wealth of experience and ability to the medium.

Now the market has expanded to such a point that virtually untested talent, with no apprenticeship, is being given projects often beyond their ability. Instead of all-important new titles being given to the best talent around, they are being handled by the best available.

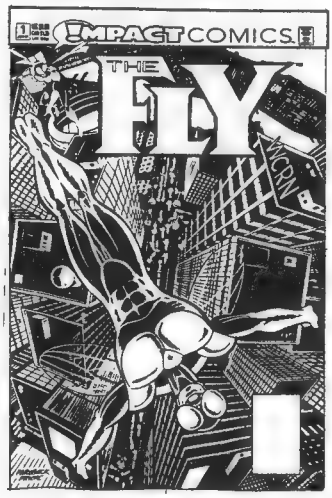
THE FLY

Operating under the 'Radio Comics' logo, Archie's **The Fly** was the company's greatest success in the superhero market.

While **The Jaguar** lasted only 15 issues (Sept, 1961 - Nov, 1963) and the indescribably poor updating of **The Shadow** ran 8 issues (Aug, 1964 - Sept 1965), **The Fly** had a cult following for its 31 issue run, before adapting a sub-Marvel style as **Fly Man** for a further eight issues under the Mighty Comics banner.

DC's Impact Comics remold the character with a first issue shipping July 2.

Script is provided by **Justice Society** and **Starman** writer Len Strazewski, pencil art by **El Diablo**'s Mike Parobeck and inks by Paul Fricke, who had also worked on **El Diablo**.



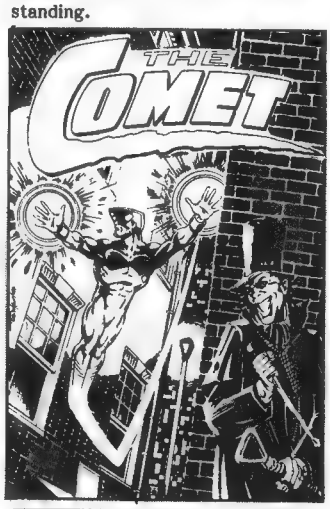
The story of Jason Troy, it follows a line similar to Simon & Kirby's original, substituting a mysterious Shazam like figure for Turin of the Flyworld as mentor to the young boy who has only to say "I wish I was ... The Fly" to be transformed into a super-powered adult.

An interesting blend between the wonderfully naive **Captain Marvel** by Binder and Beck and the original 1950s **Fly**, it displays a far more confident though somewhat more cartoon-like style than **The Shield**.

The script merely sets the scene without exciting its audience, and falls into the often-used trap of spending too long to get to the action, but having got the origin over (before anyone really cared), it has established a slight intrigue into the origin of the mentor figure.

Where DC failed to revive the original Captain Marvel in its 1973 **Shazam!** title, it is unusual for them to expect a similarly styled **Fly** to work in the 1990s. Readers, irrespective of age have outgrown the simplicity of basic cartoon-style stories, and may demand much more if they are to become hooked on the four-colour press's outpourings.

DC has made huge inroads into sophisticated story-telling through its prestige format and mature audience titles. Surely it can treat younger readers with the same understanding.



DC's Impact Comics line-up also includes **The Comet** (issue 1 shipping June 4) by Waid & Lyle; **The Jaguar** (issue 1 shipping June 18) by Messner-Loebs and newcomer David Williams; and **The Web** (no details at presstime).

All Impact titles are $1.00.

Above: Williams & Marzan's new look for ***The Jaguar****, now a Brazilian creature of legend. Below: An example of Parobecke & Fricke's Ditko-esque* ***Fly*** *in action.*

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Our professional and attentive staff can offer a friendly personal service to every customer, no matter how large or small, with overnight delivery to most mainland destinations. No account is too small or too large for us to care about. If you are just starting out in a shop, dealing mail order or at marts, we'll be more than happy to give you all the advice you need on accounting, profit margins, siting your shop, initial order levels, advertising and signings. All of our key staff in sales, accounts, stock buying and shipping have many years experience at Titan. No other distributor comes close to offering such a depth and range of experience. Please feel free to talk to us on anything that will help you offer a greater variety of stock to a wider range of customers.

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NEWS europe

Leicester's big numbers

GEOFF FRY, head man at **Toxic!**, the recently-launched colour weekly, reports that his new lauch has received "very positive feedback" and it holding its ambitious national coverage with a print run of 140,000 for issue 5 on sale April 18.

Apparently, rumours have plagued the title since its initial announcement, but Fry sums them up as "untrue ones, put about by people whose best interests are served by rubbishing **Toxic**!".

Despite reports elsewhere, John Wagner will continue to appear in **Toxic**, but he is "no longer a founding father", Fry adds.

Fry's original Leicester-based publishing company, Trident, continues its market repositioning from a small press imprint to a newsstand producer. In addition to the Fox/Dark Horse licenced **Aliens** reprint monthly (projected at 64,000 sale), the company is adding two more titles in July.

Priced £1.00 each and produced in the **Toxic!** format, they will also be licenced film spin offs; **Terminator** and **Indiana Jones**, both reprinting Dark Horse material.

Fleetway's top revamps go monthly

1990 SAW Fleetway receive such multi-media publicity for its comics line that it became the envy of all other publishers.

On top of its massive cash injection from the new Maxwell management, television, radio, newspapers and magazines picked up on the new Dan Dare (in **Eagle**), the new Roy Race (**Roy of the Rovers**) and the adult comics line.

Now, less than a year later, the product has failed to live up to its high publicity profile.

Whizzer & Chips disappeared into **Buster**, which in turn has suffered budget cuts to support other titles. **Revolver** disappeared. **Crisis** survives only by budget cuts through cheaper reprints being included.

Now, from the May cover dated issue, **Eagle** becomes a 95p 'best of' style title, joining **Roy of the Rovers** as a mainly reprint monthly.

While the indefatigable **2000AD** goes from strength to strength, together with its popular spin-offs, **Judge Dredd: The Megazine** and **Best of 2000AD Monthly**, the remainder of Fleetway's titles make the company little more than a high profile reprint house.

Not the future one would have expected from their £1m relaunch year.

TV Comic Cuts – the one that got away

A COMICS inspired children's activity programme for satellite television was scrapped before being broadcast because the producers felt it was "played out".

Instead, a general arts programme was rushed into production to fill the gap.

Comic Cuts was launched on BSB last April as part of a children's magazine programme, **Mix-It**. Its content was a mixture of comics history and how-todraw hints.

Cartoonist Chris White demonstrated drawing technique, while producer Mike Barfield explored the ins-and-outs of comics collecting.

Guest appearances by comics historian Denis Gifford and retail assistant manager at London's Comic Showcase Tim Pilcher lent an authoritive voice to the proceedings.

Originally production company Starstream Ltd, who also ran the Children's Channel on Sky TV, were planning to make 80 episodes of the twice weekly show.

However, only 27 episodes were made and a new general arts programme, **Artful Dodges**, was rushed in to make up the 53 episode shortfall.

Producer Mike Barnfield went on to script the Dennis the Menace satellite show through Starstream, which had been named after the short-lived Gold Key/Whitman comic of 1976.

The general feeling was that the show ran out of topics to cover. "If it had continued, it would have ended up repeating itself," production assistant Jane Horsman told **Comics International**.

Comic Showcase's Tim Pilcher added, "It was showing what's available. There are a lot of people interested in comics who don't really know where to look."

Feeling that it should have aimed at an older audience, Tim added that he would like to see something similar to BBC2's **Book Review**, with a retrospective section in addition to a round up of current comics.

"You could do it within 15 minutes," he said. "It's crazy that no one has tried it." (SR)

NOW — TWO DEALERS ROOMS FOR MORE CHOICE

COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE

1991
SUNDAY MAY 5

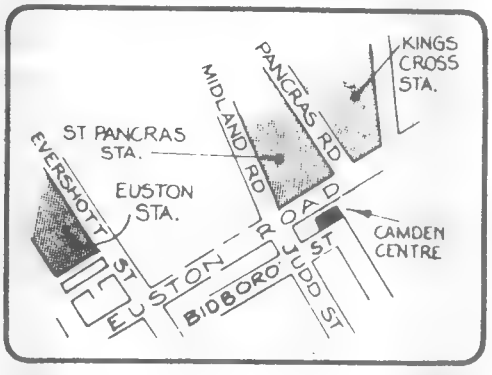
CAMDEN CENTRE BIDBOROUGH ST LONDON WC1

The Comicbook Marketplace is held every two months at the Camden Centre and is just a few minutes walk from King's Cross, St. Pancras and Euston Stations.

There are more than sixty tables with over 150,000 comicbooks and magazines on sale, including S.F., fantasy, film and T.V. related items, from Britain's top dealers.

Sandwiches, rolls, snacks, and hot and cold drinks are available throughout the day from the refreshment area located in the dealers room.

How to get there Bus: 14, 30, 45, 46, 63, 73, 77a, 214, 221, 263 to Kings Cross or Camden Town Hall. Underground: Circle, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly or Victoria Line to Kings Cross.



DOORS OPEN MID-DAY
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FUTURE COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE DATES
THERE WILL BE A COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS IN 1991:
MAY 5th, JULY 14th,
SEPTEMBER 1st, NOVEMBER 3rd.

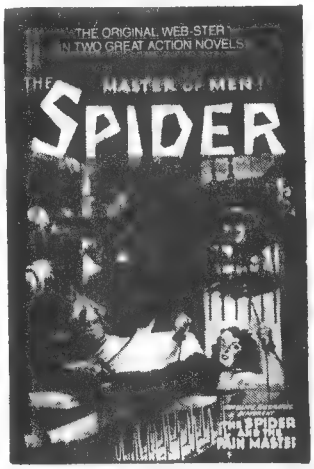
Compiled by Dez Skinn, and Simon Rogers (SR) where noted.

IN BRIEF

THIS MONTH sees the release of Fleetway's latest album in the Judge Dredd Definitive Edition series, **Metal Fatigue.**

A 64 page softcover priced £4.50, the colour album reprints Dredd's clashes with mechanical monsters by contributors including Wagner, Grant and Bolland.

SPIDER REVIVED



BILLED as "The Original Web-ster™", pulp hero **The Spider** returns in May.

American publishers Carroll & Graf begin reprinting the classic pulp tales of The Master of Men in $4.95 paperbacks with two stories in each issue.

Importing the series with a £3.65 cover price will be handled by Titan Distributors.

PENDRAGON TPB

THE FIRST six issues of **Knights of Pendragon** are being collected as a trade paperback this month, while editor Steve White predicts that the regular monthly will take on more of a "team spirit" in upcoming issues.

Plans are also afoot to collect issues 7-12 into a trade paperback for October release. (SR)

CATALAN

TITAN DISTRIBUTORS has reported that it will no longer be importing a range of Catalan books, due to the nature of their content causing problems with HM Customs & Exicise.

These titles are: **Erma Jaguar, Butterscotch, Necron, Click, Squeak the Mouse, Shorts, Druuna, Survivor, Ranxerox Vol 1, Anarcoma** and **Morbus Gravis.**

POOL CHAMPS

AS PART of the comics world contribution to this year's Comic Relief, a grand pool knockout took place on Saturday, March 16 at Camden's Edinburgh Castle, sponsored by Bass Inns Taverns.

While several proposed teams, including Titan/Forbidden Planet and Speakeasy/Viz, dropped out, competing teams were Fleetway, Marvel UK, Stateside Comics and independent tv/film production company Naked Eye.

The event had individual teams sponsored for charity by customers, fans, dealers and the BBC, and while Stateside won the final play-off, Fleetway shared joint honours by winning most individual games.

The event raised almost £1000 for Comic Relief.

MART PLUS

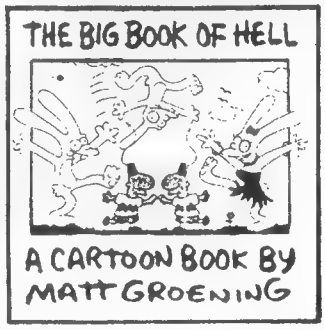
FOLLOWING the success of last year's event, the Exeter and Devon Arts Centre is staging their second mini-con on Saturday, June 15 from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

While the event is inappropriately named a comic mart, the Centre has a full line-up of events, including a charity auction, an artists/writers working exhibition, a comics quiz and an artists panel.

Guests are expected to include Bryan **(The Nazz)** Talbot and Mick (Marvelman) Austin.

The event will be held at the Centre's Gandy Street building, where the whole centre will be devoted to the event.

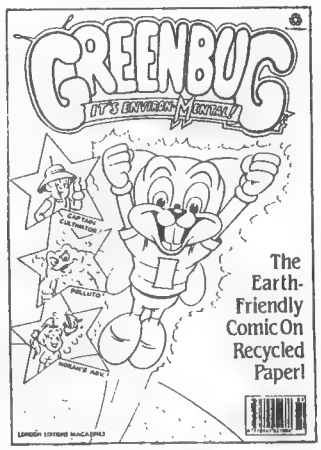
GROENING'S HELL



SIMPSONS creator Matt Groening has an exotic selection of cartoons from his best-selling **Hell** books being published.

Watch out for **The Big Book of Hell,** a 176 page 270mm square softcover volume shipping soon.

NEW LEM TITLE



MANCHESTER-based comics publisher London Editions has added a new humour title to its line with **Greenbug.**

Described by editor Peter Nicholls as "a traditional British humour comic with a twist", **Greenbug** is subtitled **It's Environ-Mental.**

Each strip, printed on recycled paper, centres around a different aspect of protecting the environment, but Nicholls emphasises "it isn't preachy".

As well as Greenbug himself, the title also features new characters Captain Cultivator, Polluto and Norah's Ark.

UK Comic Art Awards 1991

THE SECOND Glasgow-based Comic Art Convention was held on March 23-24 with a slightly lower attendence of 800.

Rusty Staples director, Frank Plowright, who organised the event with co-director Hassan Yusuf, told **Comics International,** "Considering the mighty City of Culture publicity machine wasn't working for us this year, I'm not that disappointed with the attendance."

While considerably smaller than the number who arrive at Rusty Staples annual London event, the traditional charity auction succeeded in raising over £1800. With bids that had been for original artwork from the convention booklet, the money is to be split between Help The Aged and the Talbot Association for the Homeless.

During the weekend, the UK Comic Art Awards 1991 were presented, having been assessed from votes made by people involved in the creative, retail and editorial side of the industry.

The results were:

Best Writer
1 Pete Milligan
2 Neil Gaiman
3 Alan Moore

Best Artist
1 John Higgins
2 Geof Darrow
2= Colin MacNeil

Best Writer/Artist
1 Kyle Baker
2 Frank Miller
3 Dan Clowes

Best Newcomer
1 Mark Millar
2 Peter Doherty
3 Gary Eskine

Best Auxilliary Contributor
1 Dave Elliott (editor)
2 Tom Frame (letterer)
3 Lynn Varley (colorist)

Best Publisher
1 DC Comics
2 Fantagraphics
3 Dark Horse

Best Character
1 Buddy Bradley
2 Superman
3 Sandman

Best Original Graphic Novel
1 Elektra Lives Again
2 Why I Hate Saturn
3 The Spiral Cage

Best Graphic Novel Collection
1 The Complete Alec
2 True Faith
3 Sandman: The Doll's House

Best Translated Graphic Novel
1 Blueberry
2 Corto Maltese
3 Slaver

Best New Publication
1 Revolver
2 Judge Dredd Megazine
3 Big Numbers

Best Ongoing Publication
1 Viz
2 Hate
3 Cerebus

Career Achievement Award
1 Steve Ditko
2 John Wagner
3 Alan Moore

As Frank commented, the results throw up a number of surprises when compared with the general public votes used in the Eagle Awards.

British Telecom sponsors comic

SPONSORED by British Telecom, the Chisenhale Art Education Workshop has devised an international publishing project, **The Fax Comic.**

Following their success with the **Voices from the Other Side** project, the East-London based workshop has again commissioned the services of **Downside** creators Pete Ketley and Dave McNamara to work with 16-25 year olds to produce the new comic.

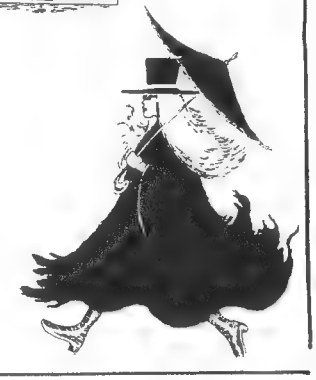
But unlike the **Voices** title, the contributors to the new comic will come from London Liverpool and Berlin.

Representing Chisenhale, Kim Sweet told **Comics International** that they had linked in with the City College Cartoon Workshop in Liverpool and Berlin's Jugend und Kulturzentrum — the Cultural Arts Centre, and through fax machines, creators in all three centres would be working simultaneously, instantly communicating ideas between each other.

"All three centres are inner city multi-racial areas, so the contributors have the same kind of isolation in common," Kim said.

Bringing together similar similar experiences, while retaining the different cultures of the soon-to-be borderless European state, the end product will be a bi-lingual comic printed and distributed in Britain and Germany.

Further information can be obtained from Kim Sweet on 081 981 4518.



Tomorrow's creators at risk

FOR THE' last three years, The London Cartoon Centre has acted as one of the greatest guarantees of the future of well-produced comics.

Already, ex-students have contributed work for both sides of the Atlantic to such publishers as DC Comics, Dark Horse,Marvel, Fleetway, Atomeka and John Brown Publishing.

Yet while their editors and art editors desparately seek out the best creators of today, they all admit to having no time, resources or facilities to train the next generation.

The publishers actively support the current comics market as well as outside causes by sponsoring events, but unlike other industries they make absolutely no provision for developing future talent in this totally creator-led market, and are currently offering no financial support whatsoever to the London Cartoon Centre itself.

While the LCC is training and refining tomorrow's creators purely for the benefit of publishers, retailers and fans, it does so as a charity.

Part of the Portobello Trust, it relies wholely on donations to survive. But, because of cutbacks in grants, that survival is imperilled.

While tentative moves are underway to secure a more stabilised long-term future, the Centre needs help in the short term.

With the Centre's approval, **Comics International** is establishing a "Friends of the LCC" scheme.

Next issue, space will be donated to list the names of all those who support the ideals of this essential training ground for new talent.

All participants will have their names (with or without addresses) plus up to ten words published in acknowledgement of a donation, made payable to The Portobello Trust.

For your support, the following minimum donations are requested:

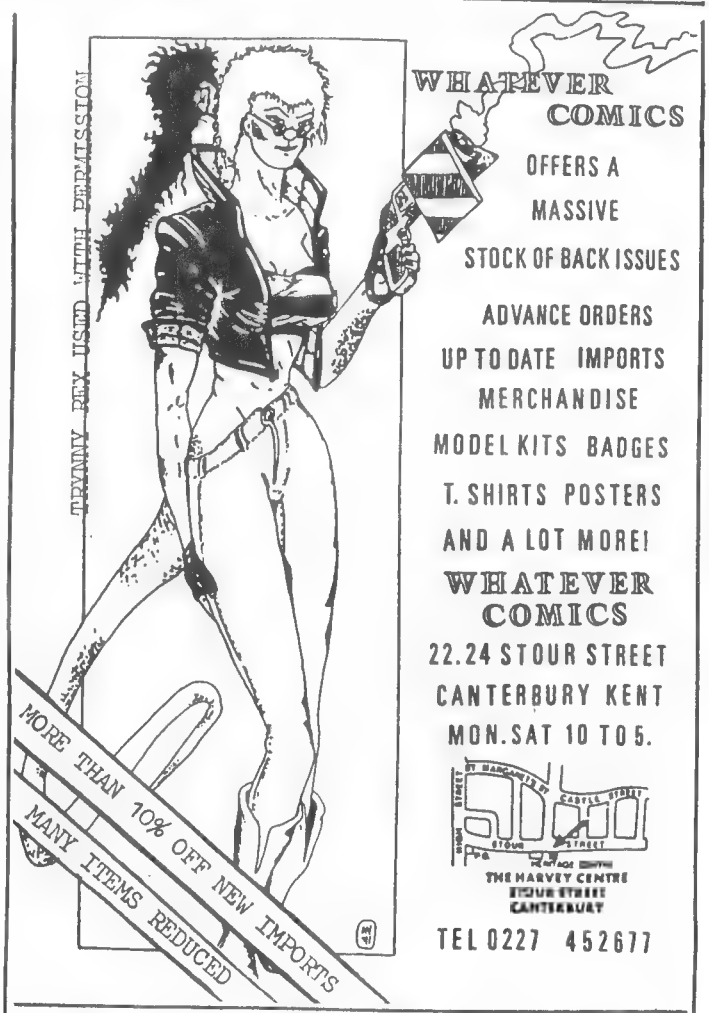
- General Public: Fans, readers and fanzines £5.00
- Professional creators: £20.00
- Comics Shops: £30.00
- Publishers/Distributors £100.00

Many have already had some benefit from ex-students of the LCC, through publishing, editing, writing for, distributing, selling or reading their work.

As an expression of appreciation please send donations to:

Comics International/LCC
77 Oxford Street
London W1R 1RB

... to reach us, if possible, before May 20, 1991.



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New competition for importers

PUBLISHING and retail are not the only parts of the UK comics industry to be currently facing a rapid expansion.

The key aspect of direct sale distribution is about to become fiercely competitive as rumours abound.

Both major US comic shop distributors Capital City and Diamond have been closely observing the UK market, said to represent 10-15% of the total turnover for American comics publishers.

While one of our own UK comics distributors has turned down buy-out offers from both US rival companies, we are about to see two new players in the UK distribution market.

The lifeblood of comic shops, distributors supply retailers with their latest air-freighted titles on a weekly basis, and in total represent no less than 80% of top publisher DC's market.

While official announcements have yet to be made, the impending doubling up from two to four comic shop suppliers is sure to create a price war.

While this may be good for the retailer and the reader in the short term, it is to be hoped that any casualties do not damage the as-yet fledgling growth industry.

Sleeze Brothers make Radio 1

ABSLOM DAAK may have made the transition from **Doctor Who Magazine** to the dj's turntable, but **The Sleeze Brothers** didn't quite manage the same feat — and their creator reckons that's the way it should be!

Humourist John Carnell fronts a band named after the dim-witted future detectives and concocted a little ditty around the comic duo.

The song was even played on young free and single Gary Davies' Radio One afternoon show.

"It wasn't really that good," John told **Comics International.** "It would have gone down in history along with Timmy Mallet.

"It was a great laugh in the studio when we arranged and recorded it, but that's about all."

Apart from the odd gig, John is concentrating on a one-shot **Sleeze Brothers Special** for Marvel's Epic imprint.

Titled "Some Like It Fresh", the strip spoofs the classic movie **Some Like It Hot,** but has El Ape and Deadbeat facing fresh air racketeers.

John revealed that the duo were also to have come across a group called The PRATS, but the American editors found that too rude.

"It's now TWATS — the Terran Womens Air Temperence Society," he said. (SR)

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(Please quote 'Comics International' when replying)

IN BRIEF

THOMSON ANNUALS

AUGUST will see the release of DC Thomson's 1991 crop of hardback annuals.

The line-up is set to include the fourth successful **Fifty Years of The Beano & Dandy** and **The Golden Years of Adventure Stories** (both priced £5.95), as well as **The Dandy Book** and **The Beano Book** (at £3.80).

Popular lead characters getting their own annuals will be **The Bash Street Kids, Dennis The Menace** and **Desperate Dan** (at £3.60), while **The Beezer Book** and **The Topper Book** will both be priced £3.70.

The Broons continue to reprint the popular newspaper strip in their £3.25 annual, while the traditional female readers can look forward to both **Bunty** and **Judy** annuals at £3.70.

SUNFLASH

PENSIONS giant Sun Alliance is risking the wrath of King Feature Syndicate with their latest promotion.

The company's new campaign feaures ten pages of poorly copied Alex Raymond full colour artwork, following the tradition established last year by banking giant Barclays with their thinly disguised Marvel superhero promotion.

But while Barclays wisely changed emblems, colour schemes and names with their cartoon posters, Sun Alliance runs the proud heading "If You Want To Be A FLASH GORDON..." above a figure of Flash and Dale, with the dramatic addition of a Superman-style cape.

The booklet goes on to feature Raymond-style spaceships, cities and further shots of Flash and Dale accompanying reasons why a flash Gordon ... or Jane, or Steve, or Graham, or Julie... should become savers with Sun Alliance.

But nowhere is there the familiar little c in a circle or usual accompanying copy.

Heads may roll. Watch out for the next thrill packed episode in our story.

DREDD STRIPS

THE Judge Dredd Mega Collection is a 144 page hardcover compilation of Wagner, Grant & Smith's newspaper strip.

Shipping in April, it carries a US price of $14.95.

Also available very soon will be **Judge Dredd's Hardcase Papers Volume 1** reprinting work by Grant & Wagner illustrated by Esquerra, Gibson, Mick Austin and Arthur Ranson.

A 48 page softcover trade paperback, it carries a US price of $5.95.

SHADOW HUNTERS

BLADE the Vampire Slayer has been reduced to guest star status in a mini-series that was to have been his own.

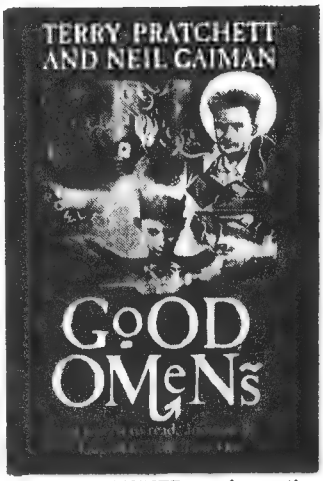
Marvel UK has had to slash the role of the character because of America's re-introducing Dracula to the Marvel Universe.

"We're now developing our own characters for the series," said editor Steve White. "It's still possible that Blade and Doctor Strange will make some guest-shots in it."

The series is being developed under the title of **Shadow Hunters.**

(SR)

GOOD GAIMAN



FAN FAVOURITE comics author Neil Gaiman teamed with fantasy author Terry Pratchett to produce the hilarious and inventive end-of-the-world novel **Good Omens** last year.

Corgi will be releasing a paperback edition next month, priced £3.99, enabling you all to discover whether the world will end next Saturday just after tea.

MAD GIFT

NOW UNDER the London Editions publishing banner, the UK edition of **MAD Magazine** celebrates its 350th issue this June.

Following a free gift pattern established in the company's recently launched DC reprint weekly **Heroes, MAD** 350 will feature two free postcards.

Printed in full colour, the cards will print the covers of of the latest issue and the first issue of the UK **MAD.**

In addition, the issue will feature a competition with 350 enamel **MAD** pins as prizes.

CREW THROUGH

SKELETON CREW, the Argus Press monthly horror media magazine has been cancelled with issue 9.

Following a stormy launch, with the magazine's originating editor fired before the second issue was distributed, the magazine was handled by Dave Reeder.

Under Reeder, who had previously edited the 1980s revival of **Halls of Horror/House of Hammer** for Quality Communications, the magazine had given an excellent coverage of horror and fantasy comics for the newsstand audience and will be sadly missed.

Epic saga of Irish mythology

OUT OF PRINT since 1978, **The Book of Conquests** is being reprinted by Dragon's World this month.

An authority on Celtic art, writer/artist Jim Fitzpatrick uses the book to weave together a number of separate episodes of the early Irish mythological cycle into one coherent saga of epic proportions.

Fans of Barry Windsor-Smith and pre-Raphaelite art along with followers of Pat Mills Slaine character will find this 112 page softback an essential addition to their collections.

From Tuan and the conquest of the Fir Bolg to the last battle and death of Eochai, **The Book of Conquests** is priced £8.95.

Still King after 50 years

THE BRAINCHILD of real-life Citizen Kane, William Randolph Hearst, has been celebrating a 75 year reign as a leading exponent of comic art.

King Features Syndicate was launched in November 1915 to capitalise on the talents of the innovative cartoonists working for Hearst's newspapers.

Many early King features, including **Hogan's Alley, The Katzenjammer Kids** and **Krazy Kat,** pre-date the company, but its formation marked the beginning of a concerted effort to sell comic art around the world.

Condemned as the founder of "yellow" journalism, so named because of the colour of the newsprint his papers used, Hearst was a champion of comics creators and supported strips such as **Krazy Kat** and **Thimble Theater** when wiser voices said they should be cancelled.

The "yellow" tag also became firmly associated with one of the characters in **Hogan's Ealley.** The bald-headed child "The Yellow Kid" who first appeared in 1895 and never once spoke.

Regarded as a seminal comics character, the Kid was immortalised by a prestigious international award at Italy's regular Lucca Comics Festival.

R. F. Outcault, the Kid's creator, later went on to greater success with **Buster Brown,** almost a proto-type for Dennis the Menace.

Making significant advances in licensing, King Features characters soon gained a commercial life outside of their comic strip panels, none moreso than multimedia favourites **Popeye** and **Flash Gordon.**

Recently, King established a scholarship fund to assist aspiring young cartoonists. The fund is administered by the National Cartoonists Society of America in honour of the late **Steve Canyon** and **Terry & the Pirates** creator Milton Caniff.

Today, King Features is represented in the UK by the Yaffa Newspaper Service, and continues to syndicate old favourites as well as recent additions such as **Hagar the Horrible** and **The Wizard of Id.**

(SR)

New Night-Raven graphic novel

NIGHT-Raven, the popular Marvel UK character originally created for **Hulk Comic** in 1979, makes a return in June in his own new graphic novel.

By Jamie Delano and original co-creator David Lloyd, **Night-Raven: House of Cards** continues the original prohibition-era theme as the mysterious vigilante stalks the streets, battling the mob at every turn.

Fully painted, the book has a $14.95 cover price.

JUDGE DREDD

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IN BRIEF

EVER WONDER why journalists often make terrible mistakes in newspaper stories about comics?

It isn't always their fault. A recent Fleetway press release told recipients that "**2000AD** was launched in 1977 and quickly became the country's top selling comic". Now that will come as a surprise to the publishers of **The Beano.**

NEW-OLD LOOK SUPERMAN

LONDON EDITIONS' DC reprint title, **Superman,** gets a new-old look with issue 45.

Reverting to a style fondly remembered by long-time DC fans, the monthly changes to an American 1960s-style logo and co-stars Wonder Woman, the Blue Beetle, Tales of the Bizarro World, Batman and the Justice League.

Quite a line-up for 85p.

CRUMB'S BLUES

FOLLOWING on from the success of their **My Trouble With Women** book, Knockabout Comics is producing **Robert Crumb Draws the Blues.**

Planned to be 64 to 80 pages with an Autumn release, **Blues** will be put together by Crumb on completion of his relocation from America to a large old house in the south of France.

While the signed and numbered edition of **Trouble** had proved a successful experiment for Knockabout, it has yet to be confirmed whether a similar edition will be produced for **Blues.**

Also due this year from Knockabout is a **Fat Freddy's Cat** hardback volume. Publisher Tony Bennett is reluctant to call it a "complete cat" edition because creator Gilbert Sheldon, who also lives in France, loves drawing the cat so much it's impossible to track all his strips down. "Even Gilbert hasn't a record of them all," he adds.

HEROES GIFT

THE RECENTLY launched DC reprint weekly from London Editions, **Heroes,** gets a switch in its free gift in superstitious issue 13.

The 50p weekly starring Batman and The Legion of Super-Heroes was to feature a Catwoman badge cover-mounted. But a change of plans has resulted in it being replaced by a 16" x 22" poster instead.

Meanwhile, companion title **Batman** marks issue 34's Batman-Swamp Thing team-up (by Wien & Wrightson, from **Swamp Thing 7**) with a free Swamp Thing badge.

Batman Monthly 34, priced 85p, goes on sale May.

JUDGE DREDD V BATMAN

WHILE the Batman and Grendel intercompany team-up title between DC and Comico has been held up by Comico's financial embarrassments of late, the Judge Dredd v Batman graphic novel, **Judgement on Gotham** has been rescheduled for October 1991 release.

In true democratic style, DC will produce the US edition while Fleetway will publish for the UK.

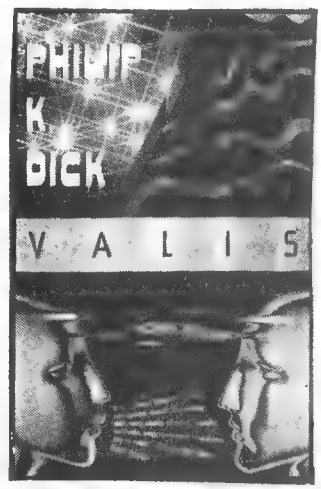
COMIC LOANS

BRINGING comics to a wider audience, several libraries have recently been carrying a range of graphic novels.

London's Camden Libraries was the first to experiment with the idea, which has since expanded to include the Bridgeman Road West Library, one of the eleven Islington Libraries.

The experiment which has included a four screen display of graphic novels, has met with an amazing response according to reports, and at least one librarian has been converted since taking out Eisner's **Contract With God.**

DICK RELEASES



CYBERPUNK lovers who can take their fiction without pictures will be pleased to hear that Vintage is releasing Philip K. Dick's **Valis.**

This theological detective story in which God is both the missing person and the perpetrator of the ultimate crime, stars the schizophrenic hero Horselover Fat and is fiction as only the unique Philip K. Dick could write.

The book carries a £7.25 price, as do the forthcoming Vintage/Dick releases **The Divine Invasion** and **The Transmigration of Timothy Archer.**

UK Price Guide tightens up

THE THIRD annual PCP edition of **The Comic Book Price Guide for Great Britain** was launched on April 6 at two separate venues.

In the face of such competition as a London Comic Mart, a Forbidden Planet **Red Dwarf** signing and the Grand National, the event was complicated further by the last-minute withdrawal of London's Virgin Megastore, Oxford Street, as the launch site.

Relocating at Dillons Bookstore in London's Kensington High Street, the last-minute change led to a disappointing reception for the guest participants who included Dave Gibbons, Bryan Talbot, David Lloyd and Brian Bolland.

"It was a risk, but we wanted to try to broaden the horisons of the comics world, and take it out of the mart arena," commented Andrew Sewell of Naked Eye Publicity.

Following the 2.00pm media launch, a successful launch party was held at Taylor's Wine Bar in Soho for the book which has increased its distribution this year to encompass such high street bookshops as Smiths, Dillons, Waterstones and Hatchards, where it is hoped the initial 5,000 print run edition will be displayed with graphic novels and in the reference books section alongside tv and film guides.

In an attempt to appeal to this wider audience, author Duncan McAlpine has broadened the scope of this year's guide considerably.

While the Guide has held back a cover price increase by keeping to a similar page count as last year, the actual listings are condensed to allow for a thorough overview of the hobby in a wide range of articles.

Though Paul Sassienie's column (including a pointless reprinting of a Duncan McAlpine letter to DC's **The Phantom**) is a total waste of space, and the value of giving pages to sketches is debateable, the majority of the features are an excellent bonus.

Of particular note are: The "first appearance" index; Paul Gravett's pronounciation guide and the defects chart.

Cover reproductions continue to present a problem. The choice continues to be unusual with many poor recent covers used when fans would prefer to see older rarer titles. The space given to covers is an excellent 70mm depth, but for some reason every single cover is only 40mm deep floating in a huge white space. The reproduction quality continues to be appalling, and seems to have got gradually worse over the three years.

Taken in its totality, the above are minor quibbles, as the main function is increasingly better served, as guide values show signs of settling realistically, and artist/character information continues to increase, making this volume a neccesity for anyone not buying the longer-established unofficial parent volume from America by Bob Overstreet.

Watson workload confusion

LAST ISSUE, **Comics International** ran a story covering veteran comics artist Keith Watson's dismay and surprise that he was offered no regular work on the then-weekly **Eagle** Dan Dare strip following an initial commission.

"Sadly, Fleetway hasn't offered me any more stories," was how he summed it up to Alan Woollcombe.

Coincidentally, Simon Rogers had spoken to **Eagle** editor Barry Tomlinson.

When asked about old guard Dan Dare artist Keith Watson, Tomlinson is quoted as telling Simon Rogers that Watson "has been unable to remain with the strip, presumably because of other work commitments".

In fact, Keith Watson currently has no comic strip commitments whatsoever.

Brent Council comic workshop

Report by
STEVEN FOUNTAIN

"A SPECIAL four week course run by professionals from the comics industry to improve and fine tune your drawing skills and creative talents."

The pamphlet annoucement referred to one of the aspects of the Brent Council sponsored Strip Search 2, held at Willesden Green Library Centre last month.

The tutors for the four Monday evening 3-hour sessions were **Downside**'s Pete Ketley and Dave McNamara, who had given a similar course with the **Voices from the Other Side** project for the Chisenhale Art Education Workshop last year.

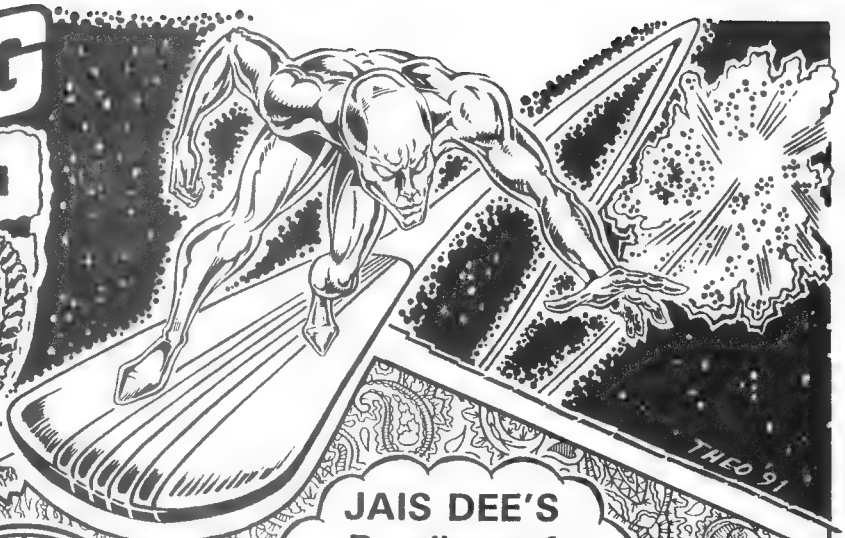
Following an initial outline of what the course was hoping to achieve, the approach became informal and productive, despite having only one prospective writer and over twenty prospective artists.

Aged between 19 and 35, the student number diminished over the four weeks as casual lecture goers and art students expecting a more strictly ordered craft tutelage gave way to comic fans and existing though unsuccessful creators.

Sadly, all three women initially intrigued did not survive the course.

Despite an unsupportive Council charge of £12 per student — much much to both tutors' surprise, the end product of the four evenings was a finished comic of very high standard which was sent to professional editors to introduce the students' work.

SOMETHING STRANGE THIS WAY COMES...



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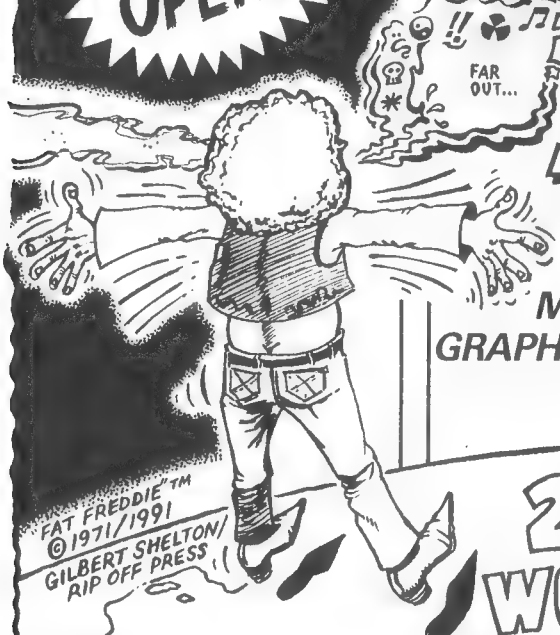

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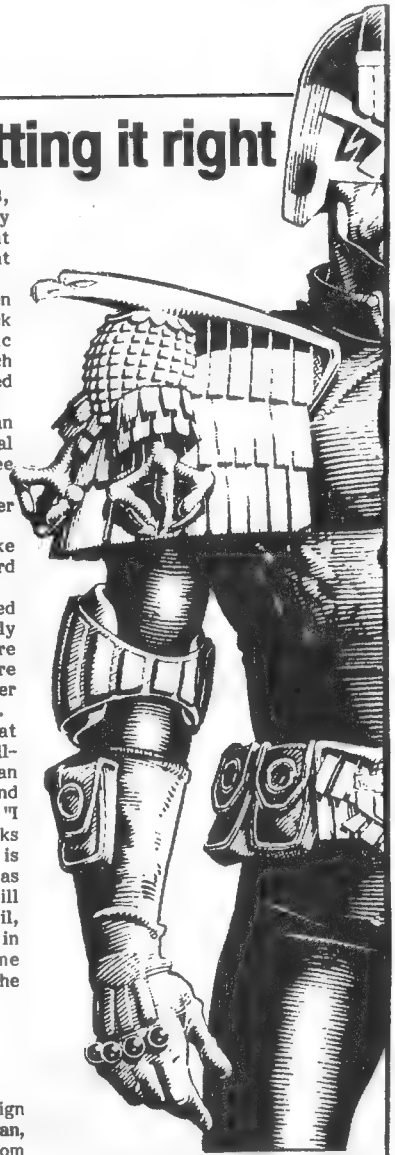
2000AD: Getting it right



STARTING with issue 723, Britain's award-winning weekly sf comic, **2000AD**, took a giant step forward, much to the delight of its readers.

While the comic had been created as a standard black and white adventure comic back in 1977, with its March 23, 1991 issue, it transformed into a total colour package.

In addition, no. 723 began a three week promotional campaign, complete with free posters and mini-comics. All this without increasing its cover price.

Comics International spoke to the title's editor, Richard Burton, about this major step.

He said that the increased costs in making the weekly full colour throughout were being absorbed, and that there would be no increase in cover price "for the forseeable future".

"But I want to stress that just because we have an all-colour facility, it doesn't mean we'll no longer run black and white stories," he added. "I believe some artists' work looks better without colour, and is something this country has over the Americans. We still have artists, like Steve Yeovil, whose work looks better in black and white. So, from time to time, such things as the next Zenith won't use colour."

MEETING THE MARKET

With an advertising campaign that included **The Guardian**, was **2000AD** moving away from its normal audience range?

"No," Burton replied. "The last big survey we did, two years ago, showed 17 to be the average reader age. The campaign was for issues which provided an entry point for new readers. With **2000AD** running continuous stories, people come in halfway through and feel they've missed out on too much. So we promoted issue 700 as an entry point, now we're doing it with 723 and there will be others later in the year which provide perfect starting points for new readers. That's the prime function of these promotional issues."

YOUTH MARKET

In answer to a recent criticism that **2000AD** was losing sight of its core of younger readers, Burton commented, "I did feel for a while, before the arrival of **Crisis**, **Revolver** and the **Megazine** that there wasn't really anything for the older readers, who I term as being over 17. Maybe we went a bit too far though, neglecting the under 17s. I've now brought in some very experienced American writers, Michael Fleisher, Paul Kupperberg and I'm currently negotiating with John Ostrander. They are providing some of the action that complaints have said we'd lost. Though I'd always give priority to British creators, I think we're in a world market now."

Outlining his market as mainly 12 to 25 year olds, Burton denied any similarity between **2000AD** and American comics.

"When the last survey was done it was across a wide range of 2000 people from different areas, ages and across all classes. One of the questions was "Are you a comics fan?" and it showed that only 20% of our readers are actual fans, who collect comics, attend conventions, buy US titles and such. As our last ABC (Audit Bureau of Circulation) figure showed we sell 97,000 copies a week, it puts the fan audience at just under 20,000."

By comparison, a recent DC Comics letters page had an editor mentioning that 80% of their title(s) were sold through comic shops, the exact opposite of **2000AD** which enjoys the far healthier position of not relying on the current fan market as an audience. The **2000AD** figures also back up a recent comment by Fleetway managing editor Steve McManus, saying that there may be only 20,000 actual comic fans in Britain, when explaining the disappointing sales of **Revolver** and **Crisis**.

Burton continued, "Adult comics and adult readers are still a new thing in this country. It's a major job to re-educate the British trade and public away from thinking that comics are all juvenile. What I call 'The **Beano** Mentality' is still prevalent out there.

"With **2000AD**, 80% of our audience buy it purely for entertainment. They buy it on a regular order, read it and throw it away, or trade it, whatever.

But they don't keep it and build up a collection," he concluded.

RETENTION SPAN

Traditionally, comics have a total audience turnover within 5 yeras, thus creating the rule that publishers can reprint material after five years for a new audience.

"I think **2000AD** broke the five year limit. But that can create a Catch-22 situation," Burton explained. "Long-term readers, growing up with the title, continually expect more depth which can lose the younger readers. Then they ask for new characters one minute and are hungry for the 'good old days' the next. That's why **2000AD** always has a mix of the new and old characters."

VIABILITY

There can be no doubt that syndication, reprints and merchandising has contributed greatly to the success of **2000AD**. Had this been taken into account when assessing the viability of the comic?

"No. **2000AD** is costed out to be viable without any ads or syndication or graphic novel compilations. We're not at all dependent on spin-offs."

DOLLAR VALUE

How had the brain drain of talent from Britain to America affected the performance of **2000AD**?

"It's always been a showcase for the best and newest in British talent," Burton replied. "It's what I call a shopwindow for DC Comics. We find them, present them to the public, then the Americans come along wih open cheque books and take the creators away.

"But people are coming back because there's a lot more freedom in **2000AD**. Creators can come to us with a project and get an instant answer. But America has so many channels of approval to go through. We're weekly, we're immediate. I know people who've been working on American projects for two years or more that haven't seen the light of day.

"But having said that we're weekly, we still don't have enough space. We get three of four unsolicited submissions every single day, but we only run five or six stories a week."

POINT OF SALE

Looking at the point of sale end of the market, does **2000AD** suffer at retailer's hands?

"Yes," came the instant reply. "Racking is a source of constant aggrevation for me. Smiths started wrongly racking us. Even before our monthlies, somebody decided some of our content was 'adult', so we were racked with the high shelf titles. I want to see **2000AD** back on the bottom shelf."

Do the painted covers and lack of cover speech balloons give the retailers the impression **2000AD** is an adult comic?

"No, we always have to change with the times," Burton said. "Even younger readers today are looking for higher quality product than in the 1970s. Glossy covers with high impact do a lot for a publication, whatever age group it's aimed at."

Were retailers confused, with the presence of a similar 'Best Of' monthly **2000AD**?

"Well, the monthly is doing really well," Burton replied. "It has picked up tremendously since Alan McKenzie took it over and changed it from continued stories to complete packages. We've not heard of any confusion with the weekly, but I haven't spoken to many retailers. For the readers, and they're the people that matter, the difference is obvious."

TAILORING FOR REPRINTS

With so many reprint versions of **2000AD** stories, are there any restrictions to suit reprint formats?

"None, they follow us," came the confident reply. "Writers and artists are told to work to the length they feel the story needs. We only think of lengths and formats when we intend to reprint stories as graphic novels. But we don't produce them visually to work perfectly as a single read, with no episode logos or story so far intros. If we did that, they wouldn't work in the weekly and readers would start smelling a rat. My prime focus is on a single issue. Everything else comes later. Often the graphic novel compilation comes later, like with **Hewligan's Haircut** or **Mean Machine**, which actually runs short, so we're getting new pages commissioned to fill the space.

TOO MUCH FREEDOM

Does allowing writers to chose their own story length not lead to padding of ideas?

"Not really," he replied. "I give writers ideal story lengths to work within. A major story has no more than 10-12 episodes these days, with Dredd being an exception. His mega-epics, like Necropolis are very popular. We only run them once every two or three years, but readers are always asking for more.

"Garth Ennis has next year's Judge Dredd epic already planned out. We brough Garth in because John Wagner has had to cut back on his weekly Dredd work due to his great involvement in **The Megazine**. John had been writing Dredd for 14 years, though, so Garth tends to check things over direct with him before submitting story ideas. There's a lot of collaboration there, and John is Garth's hero, so he'd never ignore him.

"Garth will be writing the lion's share of Dredd weekly stories in future, with John Wagner coming in from time to time with one-offs or short stories."

THE FUTURE

Richard Burton concluded by saying, "Issue 723 is just the start of some of the finest stories we've ever run. There's another boom coming in the Autumn. With Grant Morrison, Brett Ewins, Garth Ennis, Jim Baikie, Pat Mills and lots of other top creators ... just watch our smoke!"

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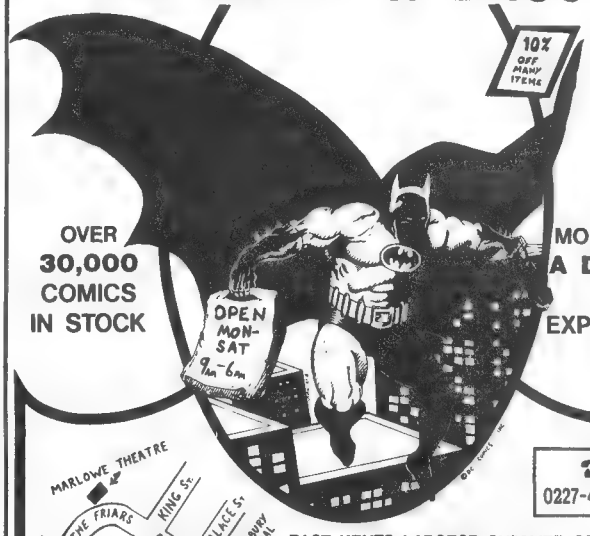

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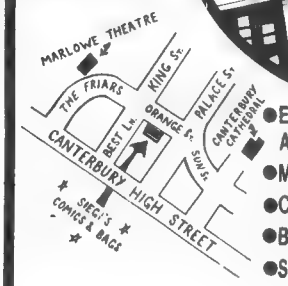

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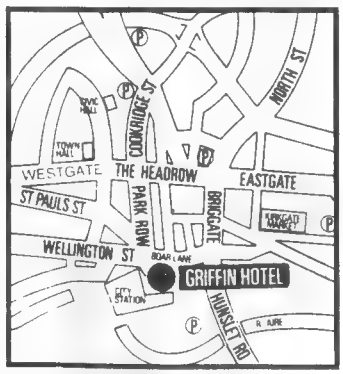

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MEDIA FILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

SATURDAY NEVER COMES

THE SIGN of the times issue of obscenity was aired yet again when John Brown Publishing's product came under fire from a listener who had written in to complain about the content of **Viz** magazine, in a programme aptly entitled "One Man's Comic Relief is Another Man's Obscene Publication" in the BBC Radio 4 weekly access slot "Punters" (21.3.'91).

Appearing for the defence was not a representative from JBP but professor of sociology Christie Davies, analysing the relationship between humour and obscenity.

Could it be that the publisher of **Viz** and the nascent **Blast** was unwilling to appear because his schedule was busied up with unsuccessful bids to buy out the determinedly independent team producing the New Man's football monthly **When Saturday Comes**?

Comics were also the platform for radio discussion during a puff for the recently published **Comic Book Price Guide** on BBC's local London station GLR (3.4.'91), with an appearance by editor Duncan McAlpine and eminent comics creator (and **Guide** cover artist) Dave Gibbons, who, after a brief autobiographical skirmish went on to talk about his work on the **Batman/Predator** crossover from DC and Dark Horse.

PRANKS AT 40

None of this coverage is the equal of the extraordinary twenty-eight radio interviews **Beano** editor Euan Kerr was asked to attend following the announcement by publishers D C Thomson of the "dude-ification" of Denis the Menace.

This violation created an "unprecedented reation", Kerr told **Comics International.** The **Beano** office was inundated with calls from lawyers, surgeons, authors, politicians and boxers, spluttering their outraged indignation at D C Thomson's audacity. Writer Auberon Waugh, member of Denis's one million-strong fan club was reported in the **Daily Mail** as "aghast" (11.3.'91), and he promptly threatened to resign his membership if the old image was abandoned.

Not even seasoned iconoclasts Richard Ingrams and Alan Coren (**Private Eye** and **Punch**) were alert to the possibility of debunking fan hysteria when they discussed Dennis's transmogrification on Radio 4's **The News Quiz** (16.3.'91).

Strange, then, that none of these die-hards used Dennis philosophy to interpret the latest fashion move. Yes, Dennis's outfit, conceived by "Italian designer Luco Veria" was in fact a mammoth prank set up by **Beano** staff in order to draw attention to Dennis's 40th Anniversary. Media pundits were slow off the mark as well – "You'd have thought they would have guessed from the name we gave the 'Italian designer' ", Kerr ruefully told **Comics International.**

When the denouement was made in **Beano** 2540 (23.3.'91) however, with the editor's caveat "As you see – a true Menace never changes", media heads were kept well below the parapet.

HAMMEL'S HAT-TRICK

Euan Kerr appeared again in an unrelated but excellent piece on children's fiction produced by the Newcastle team of **Woman's Hour** (BBC Radio 4, 29.3.'91). He was joined by comics historian Denis Gifford and Waterstones' children's book buyer Elizabeth Hammel. A rarity in the arcane and male-dominated world of comics, Hammel – amongst a wealth of pithy observations – commented that "all criticism levelled against comics can be compensated for by their complexity; they're really here to stay now they've entered the world of (book) publishing because that makes them 'proper' reading".

POP CULTURE BALLY-OFF

A view not shared, unfortunately by science fiction writer J G Ballard in his review of Denis Gifford's **International Book of Comics,** and **The Encylopedia of American Comics** (Ron Goulart) in the **Guardian** (21.3.'91).

The literary giant vacillated between a grudging respect for comics artists and criticism of the effect of comics culture on American literary standards, concluding "the separation between high and popular culture is now virtually complete, probably to the former's loss".

J G Ballard did, nevertheless, proffer an answer to the vexed question of the lack of popularity of adult comics in the UK; while discussing the growth of adult product like Dick Tracy in America, he hypothesised: "the comic book was now openly aimed at adult readership. In Britain, which lacked the necessary social and geographical mobility, the comic strip was virtually monopolised by children's humour, of a particularly warped and introverted kind, from which I'm glad to have been saved". Will UK comics fans ever live it down?

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ADVANCE LISTINGS

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SHIPPING: MAY 1991

ALL 32PG COLOUR TITLES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

Key to abbreviations used:
Smith & Jones + Ward = Writer & pencil artist + inker
squarebound = perfect bound; squared spine; without staples; glued
PQ = Printed in Canada, good quality paper (Ronalds)
b&w = black & white content
hBk = hardback (book) edition
tpbk = trade paperback edition squarebound comic size
Xpg = X number interior pages

ADULT TITLES: V = violence; S = sex; N = nudity

AARDVARK

< > CEREBUS 146 (Sim & Gerhard) "Melmoth" story continues, to be concluded in 150. b&w $2.25

< > CEREBUS: CHURCH AND STATE 7 (Sim) This issue reprints Cerebus 57, chapter 6 of "Church and State". b&w $2.00

< > CEREBUS: CHURCH AND STATE 8 (Sim) This issue reprints Cerebus 58, chapter 7 of "Church & State". b&w $2.00

AC COMICS

< > DON WINSLOW, TROUBLE SHOOTER 1 (Carl Pfuefer + John Jordan) Text and photos from Universal's action series recounting the adventures of Navy Intelligence officer in a contemporary Middle East setting. b&w 36pg $2.75

< > FEMFORCE 37 (The Count & Nadeau + Heike) Accepting a $1million fee to steal from Latimer Labs leads Rad to a confrontation with her former self - Miss Victory - in 1945 while conspiring to save Hitler. b&w 44pg $2.75

< > GOOD GIRL ART QUARTERLY SPRING 1991 Conclusion of the Snape Shifters story by Mark Moore and Chad Hunt; "Sheena, Queen of the Jungle" examination of the jungle queen creators in an article by Bill Feret; Sheena adventure by Robert Webb; "Sky Girl" (Matt Baker) and "Loose Lazybones" (Frank Frazetta). PC 52pg $3.95

< > HOPALONG CASSIDY & THE FIVE MEN OF EVIL (Spiegle) Reprinting the "Five Men of Evil" from the newsstrip in which Hopalong attempts to recapture five escapees from territorial prison, Dan Spiegle's debut. Plus "Double-Crossed" adventure. Film stills and articles. b&w 68pg $12.95

< > ROCKY LANE WESTERN ANNUAL 1 Collection of classic '50s stories with photos and articles. b&w 44pg $2.95

ADVENTURE

< > ALIEN NATION: THE FIRSTCOMERS 1 (of 4; Powell & Eldred + Pepoy) Iraq Jack, an investigative reporter gets killed while researching an alien landing, leaving Newcomer Emily Bronte to find his files on the "Hanger 18" incident. b&w $2.50

< > ALIEN NATION: THE SKIN TRADE 3 (of 4; Cunningham & Kirk + Pallot) Dexter Methorophan makes Anna Frend an offer she can't refuse when he tries to join the Jackpot trade. b&w $2.50

< > APE NATION 4 (of 4; Marshall + Wyman & Pallot) During the confusion created by Ollo murdering alien Danada Heston and Elysa start a riot amongst the troops while Simon, Roto and Caan take a last chance to save Ape City. $2.50

< > DEATH BY ECSTASY: AN ARM GRAPHIC NOVEL (Adaptation by Spangler & Tidwell + Stiles) In this adaptation of Larry Niven's story ARM agent Gil Hamilton hunts the killer of his best friend who can mutate face and fingerprints at will. b&w $9.95

< > DEATHWORLD BOOK ONE GRAPHIC ALBUM (Holland & Campos) Telepathic gambler Jason dinAlt escapes to Pyrrus after a big win, where he finds that that world's ecology is fighting the humans trying to exploit it. Based on Harry Harrison's first Deathworld novel. b&w $9.95

< > DEATHWORLD BOOK 2, 3 (of 4; Holland & Campos) Jason is captured while escaping by the Appsala people; who realise his value after he reveals how electricity has a weapons potential. b&w $2.50

< > ESCAPE FROM THE PLANET OF THE APES GRAPHIC ALBUM (Moench & Rival) In this reprint of a Marvel story, Earth is destroyed in the future battle between ape and alien. Three survivors escape in Taylor's ship - into the 20th century where they're the centre of media attention - and also of those who would prefer them dead. b&w $9.95

< > FROM THE DARKNESS GRAPHIC NOVEL (Polgardy & Baient) Reprint of mini-series tale of "vampire queen and ravenous minions" where two brothers fall into a game with "high stakes". Softcover, signed and numbered hardcover. Mature readers. (N, V) b&w $9.95/25.00

< > INTERACTIVE COMICS 2: DUDLEY SERIOUS SAVES THE WORLD (O'Connor & Hester + Parks) In the second of the interactive comics only the reader can dictate Dudley Serious's actions to battle with the Cliche Master. b&w $4.95

< > LOGAN'S WORLD 1 (Adaptation by Blair & Mason + Ulm) Chapter 2 of the William F Logan trilogy a generation after Jessica and Logan's escape to the Sanctuary. But with Earth's destruction, Ballard's supply ships have stopped. b&w $2.50

< > PLANET OF THE APES 13 (Marshall & Wyman + Pallot) In "Frito & Jo-Jo's X-Calient Adventure" a hunt for buried treasure marks a pace change, while Ape Nation and Ape City guests appear in two back-ups. b&w $2.50

< > RETIEF: DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY 1 (of 6; Balfour & Goodhart + Larsen) Featuring Keith Laumer in a fight to save planet Sulinore's inhabitants from the Groacis despite the Diplomatic Corps. b&w $2.50

< > SINBAD: THE HOUSE OF GOD 3 (of 4; R A Jones & Wyman + Parks) Sinbad finds out the real reason for the Lady Aziza's kidnap during an attempted escape. b&w $2.50

AIRCEL

< > BORN TO KILL 1 (Blair) Troy Adams (of China Sea) returns with supernatural gangland killings in NY. b&w $2.50

< > CARMILLA 4 (of 6; S.Jones & Ross) Carmilla moves to Hollywood where she plays herself in a film biog. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > CASANOVA 3 (Ricard) "The Trap" tells the story of C's secret meeting with the married Lady Anna. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > CAT & MOUSE 14 (Mann & Byrd) Captain Rossman offers to drop all charges against Cat and Mouse if he will come out of hiding. b&w $2.25

< > CHASER PLATOON 4 (of 6; Eldred & Krueger) The Iron Infantry find out more about their Lundeen mission, and Sgt. Artoff wants no part in it when he finds out that their HQ is corrupt. b&w $2.25

< > CLIMAXXX 2 (of 4; Blair) Dick Spike sets trap for Climaxxx. Adult (S, N) $3.50

< > DEBBIE DOES DALLAS 3 (Harkins & Clark) Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > DIRTY PICTURES 2 (of 3) The "naughty"art of the '30s pulps - all genres covered, with introduction by comics historian John Wooley. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > EROTIQUE 1 (Various) Anthology. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > FIRE TEAM 6 (of 6; Don Lomax) Concludes supernatural adventure series: Adult. (S, N) b&w $2.95

< > HARDBALL 1 (Austen) Baseball and sex. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.95

< > THE INFERNO COLLECTION (Portello) Anthology of 11 horror stories by Brazilian comics creator. Adult (S, N) b&w $9.95

< > LEATHER & LACE 21 (Blair) Chris returns to college, and horizontal jinks. Adult (S) b&w $9.95

< > LEATHER & LACE: BLACK VELVET GRAPHIC ALBUM (Blair) reprint of Leather & Lace 9-12. Adult (S, N) $9.95

< > MARA 1 (of 4; Cramer) Sex, science fiction and action. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > MEN IN BLACK BOOK TWO 1 (of 3; Cunningham & Carruthers) M I B Jay and Kay new series with Wolf, a "time-fold vigilante" with synthetic eyes protecting it against the M I B's neurolysers programmed to kill. b&w $2.50

< > THE POWER 3 (of 4; Cooper) Side effects of super-serum revealed. b&w $2.50

< > SPICY ADULT STORIES 3 (of 4) More '30s reprint adult material. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

A PLUS

< > ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN 4 Preview of anthology series Paradox Place, strange tales of daily life. Art, both new and reprint by Day Brothers, Sam Glanzman, Eric Larson, Ogden Whitney, Joe Staton. b&w 48pg $2.50

< > ARIK KHAN 1 (Graphic novel; Frank Reyes) Classic sword and sorcery with back-ups from Pete Costanza and Ogden Whitney. b&w 48pg $2.50

< > COWBOY SAHIB 1 (Hughes & Starr) From the ACG archives an action adventure series with WWII pilot in post-war India. b&w 48pg $2.50

< > FORBIDDEN WORLDS 1 More ACG material featuring work from the Day Brothers, Sam Glanzman, Aparo and Ditko. b&w 48pg $2.50

< > HERBIE 5 Anthology including The Fat Fury and Professor Flipdom and "Rog 2000" (John Byrne) plus "The Adventures of Stuporman". b&w 48pg $2.50

< > SIX-GUN HEROES 1 Featuring western work from Severin, Ditko, Morisi, Al Williamson and Giordano. b&w 48pg

< > SWORDS OF VALOR 4 Featuring work by the Day Brothers, Steve Skeates, Aparo and Boyette. b&w 48pg

< > WAR 2 "Desert war" issue featuring work from Willie Franz, Sam Glanzman, Wally Wood, Demitrio and Tom Sutton. b&w 48pg $2.50

APPLE

< > DEATH DREAMS OF DRACULA 3 (Shanklin & Wheatley + Wrightstone) A cocaine addict entering a hi-tech facility to clean up provides an ideal entree for the Lord of the Damned when he dreams. b&w $2.50

< > DESERT STORM JOURNAL 1 (Lomax) "Journal", the veteran 'nam correspondent heads out for Saudi to compete with the censored hi-tech environment of pool reports, press briefings transmitted by satellite; a "grunt's eye-view" of the Gulf war. b&w $2.75

< > DRACULA IN HELL 1 (of 6; Shanklin & Vokes + Broderick) How Vlad the Impaler transmogrified into Dracula, said to be based on Transylvanian folk story recorded more than a century ago. Adult (N, V) b&w $2.50

CALIBER

< > AIRWAVES 4 (Michael Lark) The rebels realise that their fight might not be over quickly, and the Director's aim is to kill them. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

< > BOOK OF THE TAROT Depiction of the Tarot and the 22 Major Arcana cards, illustrated by various artists. b&w TBA

< > BOSTON BOMBERS 4 (of 6; Fortier & Jones + Kato) Indra's past in the secret city of Shangri-La is revealed while President Custer visits the Bishop. Rescheduled. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

< > CALIBER PRESENTS 23 Featuring "Go-Man" (Widener & Baxter), "Taken Under" (Rodia & Lark) "Heat Seeker" (Mann & Byrd) plus sketches from David Day. Mature readers. b&w 64pg $3.50

< > CAMELOT ETERNAL 7 (John Calafiore) Mordred's revelations cause further divisions in the Round Table and Launcelot and Guinevere's affair begins to visibly affect Arthur, while Morgan le Fay plans revenge. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

< > FROST: THE DYING BREED 2 (of 4; Kevin VanHook) More Vietnam flashbacks with a Gulf war crossover. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

< > INVERT 1 (Halpern & DeMatteo) One-shot story of an artist haunted by an ex-lover. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

< > JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS 1 (Zircher) Recounting the strands of legends surrounding this mythical giant with text and maps of the ancient world. b&w $2.50

< > LOWLIFE 2 (Brubaker) Featuring "A Life of Crime" - robbery and drug dealing, and "Forgotten Angel" - the story of a Beat writer who went on the road with Jack Kerouac and disappeared, forgotten by the world. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

< > NATURE OF THE BEAST 2 (of 6; Roy & Douglas) The "Beast" and the reality are confronted. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

< > NOSFERATU 1 (of 2; adaptation by Nieves & Holewczynnski) Taken from F W Murnau's version of Bram Stoker's Dracula with the count as a "foul creature of the night", not the suave and seductive animal of later film versions. Back-up material about the original 1922 film and legends of Dracula. 32pg $2.95

< > SONG OF THE CID 1 (of 2; Truax & Reid) Chronicling the life and times of Spain's hero, the unifying force in the country's history. Backed up with historical material. $2.95

< > SUPPRESSED! History and Violence in America (Edited by Starlen Baxter) One-shot look at the reality of American social history: the Pilgrims; Ku Klux Klan; the Irish city gangs; WWII propaganda; the Doctor Riots; Catholic and Jewish communities' troubles. Strips with text and illustrations by various artists. b&w $2.95

< > SWORDS OF SHAR-PEI 1 (of 3; Sniegoski & Masztal) Survivors of the New Dark Age plague are governed by scientists called Overlords led by the Godhead. A new half-man half-animal is bred, calm in spirit and fierce in combat, Shar-pei. $2.50

DARK HORSE

< > THE BEST OF DARK HORSE PRESENTS VOL 11 Best of issues 21-30 with artists including Chadwick, Stout, Geary, Gilbert, Arcudi, Norwood, Mahnke and Warner. b&w 112pg $8.95

< > CONCRETE: FRAGILE CREATURE 1 (of 4; Paul & Elizabeth Chadwick) Concrete appears in a film as a special effect and gets embroiled in the complexities of the production when sabotage is suspected. Printed on eco-friendly recycled paper. 32pg $2.50

< > INDIANA JONES 2 (of 4; Messner-Loebs & Barry + Kesel) Sophia Hapgood and Jones continue their world search for artefacts from Atlantis, pursued throughout by the Nazis. 32pg $2.50

< > OUTLANDERS 29 (Johji Manabe & Lewis and T Smith) Princess Kahm and the remainder of the rebel army literally fight for time while Tetsuya searches the Imperial Palace for his kidnapped bride. b&w 40pg $2.50

< > PREDATOR: BIG GAME 3 (of 4; Arcudi & Dorkin + Gil) Corporal Enoch Nakai is under arrest for insubordination, leaving the Predator unopposed. 32pg $2.50

< > TANK GIRL 1 (of 4; Martin & Hewlett) Collation of Deadline's popular cult strip. b&w 32pg $2.25

< > THE VENUS WARS 2 (Yoshikazu Yasuhiko) During a power struggle on the terraformed Venus Ken Seno is offered a place in Aphrodia's elite battlecycle unit. b&w $2.25

DC COMICS

RO = Ronalds Canadian printer,cartridge stock

SHIPPING APRIL 30TH

< > THE NEW ROBIN (Trade Paperback; Wolfman & Dixon, Aparo & Lyle and DeCarlo &

Smith) Reprinted from Batman 455-457 and Robin 1-5, the story of how Tim Drake became Robin. Eight stories with Brian Bolland cover. $4.95

SHIPPING MAY 14TH

< > ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY 18 (Kupperberg & Mooney + DeMulder) In "Soon To Be A Major Motion Picture" Superboy meets a new Japanese superbeing. $1.25

< > CATWOMAN (Trade Paperback; Newell & Birch + Bair) Reprint of 4-issue miniseries with introduction by Archie Goodwin. Cover: Brian Stelfreeze. 104pg $9.95

< > CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN 5 (of 8; Loeb & Sale) While the others are off doing their own thing, Moffet tries somewhat unsuccessfully to break the biggest and only real story of his career. Cover: Mark Hempel. RO $1.75

< > DETECTIVE COMICS 631 (Milligan & Aparo + DeCarlo) The Dark Knight faces Neo-Nazis preying on Gotham's homeless and a supernatural "protector" serial killer, and how to deal with an old man's grief. $1.00

< >FLASH 52 (Messner-Loebs & LaRocque + Marzan) Wally bites off more than he can chew when he agrees to capture a "criminal money man" in order to pay off his tax debts to the IRS. $1.00

< > HAWKWORLD 13 (Ostrander & Mandrake) While promoting the Thanagarian exhibit in NY, Katar joins up with Firehawk to deal with Marauder. RO $1.50

< >JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA 52 (Giffen & DeMatteis + VonEeden + Ellit) Blue Beetle v. Guy Gardner in a fight with the ultimate high stakes - the loser resigns from the JLA, one of whose members gets shot. Batman guesting. Cover: Kevin Maguire. $1.00

< > LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES 20 (T & M Bierbaum & Giffen + Gordon) The Science Police revolt against Earthgov and the Dominators, while Brainiac 5 studies Celeste's new power and Mysa experiences a revelation. RO $1.75

< > SGT ROCK 14 (Kanigher & Kubert et al) Reprint of best of DC war stories goes monthly. Cover: Joe Kubert. 48pg $2.00

< > SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL 1 (L Simonson & Bogdanove et al) "Revenge of the Krypton Man: part 1 (of 4) Featuring the work of Breeding, Janke, Jurgens, McLeod and Ordway, the story opens a year after Superman plunged the Eradicator into the Sun. But contact with the Sun has transformed it into a new Krypton Man, while the residue is destroying the star. Continued in Superman 57 this month. 48pg $1.75

< > TWILIGHT 3 (of 3;Chaykin & Garcia-Lopez) Karel Sorenson's legions find themselves under attack from Tammy Tomorrow and the Planeteers, and she deals with the dilemma of whether to defend or be true to her dedication to peaceful solutions. Prestige Format. Mature readers. Rescheduled from December. RO 48pg $4.95

< > WONDER WOMAN 56 (Perez & Thompson + Tangnal) While peace descends on the world and the Amazons of Paradise Island WW makes a choice between breaking the Amazonian laws or letting her sisters die. $1.00

SHIPPING MAY 21ST

< > BATMAN: FULL CIRCLE (Barr & Davies + Farmer) Batman's second battle with the Reaper (first encountered in Batman: Year Two) forces him to reveal his identity and confront the secret behind his parents' murder. Prestige Format. RO 64pg $5.95

< > BATMAN 464 (Grant & Breyfogle + Mitchell) Batman joins Black Wolf and Dog to prevent a dread act of vengeance in the Grand Canyon, but in the process gains a new partner. $1.00

< > DRAGONLANCE 32 (Blaustein & Randall + Elliot) Dwarf War: Part 3 (of 3). Riva runs, chased by her bewitched father Lord Silvercrown - obsessed with killing her. RO $1.75

< > DEMON 13 (Grant & Semeiks & Rodier) Etrigan and Lobo start to get friendly and decide to destroy the Earth together. RO $1.50

< > FORGOTTEN REALMS COMICS 23 (Grubb & Truog + Simons) Foxy and Agrivar try to bust Leprechaun's scam of selling dream homes in the ruined city of Myth Drannor. RO $1.75

< > GREEN LANTERN 14 (G Jones & Broderick + Patterson) Begins 4-part story in which John Stewart attempts to validate the agenda of the Guardians of the Universe with regard to the diversity of cultures of Oa. $1.00

< > HAWK & DOVE 26 (B. Kesel & Guler + Jurgens + Hoberg + Moore) Dove reassesses her past and future relationship with Hawk after his crime spree. $1.25

< > HELLBLAZER 43 (Ennis & W Simpson + Pennington) Still searching for a cure for his terminal illness Constantine comes across two old world acquaintances: a demon, and something much more fearsome. Mature readers. RO $1.50

< > JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA 4 (of 8; Strazewski & Artis + McLaughlin) "Vengeance from the Stars": part 4 (of 8) Vandal Savage and the original Hawkman battle while Savage's living constellation creature tries to steal the atom bomb with only Hawkmand and the Flash to stop him. $1.00

< > MS TREE QUARTERLY 5 (Collins & Beatty) When rapes and murders happen at Mike's college - for which he's the suspect Ms Tree goes to investigate; plus back up story of a young girl's escape from prostitution (Ed Gorman & Rick Burchett) RO 64pg $3.95

< > NEW TITANS 78 (Wolfman & Grummet + Vey) Titans meet an old cybernetic team-mate while in USSR, Donna Troy returns, and a challenge is issued to the Wildebeest Society to give the right to kill the NTs to a new organisation. RO $1.75

< > STAR TREK 21 (Weinstein & Purcell + Starr) Kirk's visited by a deity while stranded on a world at war with itself. RO $1.75 < > SUPERMAN 57 (Jurgens & Ordway + Bogdanove et al) "The Revenge of the Krypton Man": part 2 (of 4) Superman's dismayed when the Krypton Man gains the confidence of the people of Metropolis, but the KM is determined that if Superman will not assume the mantle of the "Last Son of Krypton" then he will kill him and take his place. 48pg $1.75

SHIPPING MAY 28TH

< > ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 480 (Ordway & Jurgens + Bogdanove et al) "Revenge of the Krypton Man": part 3 (of 4) While Clarke Kent and Perry White's cruise ship is threatened by the Sun's disintegration Superman is dragged towards the red star by the Krypton Man. Concludes in Action Comics 667 this month. 48pg $1.75

< > BATMAN ARCHIVES 2 Reprint of Detective Comics 51-70 featuring the Penguin, the Joker and Two-Face. RO 288pg $39.95

< > ANIMAL MAN 37 (Veitch & Dillon) When assuming a lizard's powers and consciousness Animal Man finds himself under press scrutiny. RO $1.50

< > DETECTIVE COMICS 632 (Milligan & Aparo + DeCarlo) An undead creature is stalking the street of Gotham. $1.00

< > DOOM PATROL 46 (Morrison & Giaranno) The ultimate prize - the Chief's beard - is up for grabs. Mature readers. RO $1.50

< > THE FLASH TV SPECIAL 1 (Byrne & Saltares, Waid & Williams + Martin, McFarlane, Kubert, Bolland, Infantino) Stories taken from the high-rating CBS series with back-up features, photos, and pin-up gallery. RO 80pg $3.95

< > GREEN ARROW 49 (Grell & Hoberg + Nyberg) Oliver Queen discovers secret and illegal rituals while travelling in Africa. Mature readers. RO $1.50

< > JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA ANNUAL 5 (Giffen & DeMatteis, Carr, Sprouse, Robertson & Maguire, Rubenstein & Marzan) Armageddon 2001 tie-in. JLA in 2001 with Waverider searching for Monarch's origin, J'Onn possesses the secret of the universe, Guy's a hero, Ice an "old maid" and Fire a licensing magnate. 64pg $2.00

< > LEGEND OF THE SHIELD 1 (Miehm & Waid and Miehm & Albrecht) The military's secret weapon fights his creator Mann-X in the first of a new line of stories for this revived character, outside of DC continuity. $1.00

< > L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 29 (Grant & Kitson) When a military shipment crashes on Cairn Dox's new lieutenant is thought guilty, while Lobo trashes smugglers. RO $1.50

< > MISTER E 3 (of 4; Jeter & Snyder + Geldhof) Mister E, with the recently powerful Shadower, embarks on a search through his "twisted sexuality" for a clue to the Temptress' whereabouts. Mature readers. RO $1.75

< > SANDMAN 28 (Gaiman & Dringenberg + Pratt) The ownership of Hell is decided, but Nada's fate unknown. Mature readers. RO $1.50

< > SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN 13 (Milligan & Bachalo + Pennington) Shade in life-after-death conflict with a psychopath with his own body as battlefield and prize. Mature readers. RO $1.50

< > SPELLJAMMER COMICS 11 (Blaustein & Quesada + Panosian) Meredith and crew hide in a dwarf citadel, while Kirstig considers rebellion. RO $1.75

< > STARMAN 36 (Strazewski & Hoover + Hanna) Kitty Falkner gains Starman's aid in a secret experiment, the results of which are the target for an attack from a crime cartel. $1.00

< > STAR TREK: THE MODALA IMPERATIVE 1 (of 4; Friedman & Marcos) First in new 25th Anniversary bi-weekly series finds Kirk and Chekov discovering a disturbing totalitarian society during a peaceful mission. RO $1.75

< > STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION 21 (Friedman & Krause + Marcos) The crew assume that Riker's dead, while he drifts in a lost shuttle. RO $1.75

< > SWAMP THING 109 (Wheeler & Hoffman) The Quest for the Elementals: Part 6 (of 6) Green and Grey forces of Matango finish their battle, changing the Parliament of Trees and the lives of Swamp Thing, Abby and Tefe for ever. Mature readers. RO $1.50

< > WHO'S WHO 11 (of 16; various) Loose-leaf DC encyclopaedia with "Guy Gardner" (Staton & Marzan Jr.); "Big Barda" (Adam Hughes); "Dial H For Hero" (Cullins & Austin); "LEGION 91" (Barry Kitson). RO 48pg $4.95

SHIPPING JUNE 4TH

< > ACTION COMICS 667 (Stern & McLeod + Jurgens + Gammill et al) "Revenge of the Krypton Man": part 4 (of 4) Having escaped to Mercury Superman goes to the Fortress of Solitude for the final encounter. 48pg $1.75

< > ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS COMICS 31 (Mishkin & Mandrake) Onyx reaches into Waterdeep finding gold and an unpleasant surprise. RO $1.75

< > BATMAN 465 (A Grant & Breyfogle + Mitchell) First mission with Batman for Robin, while Commissioner Gordon proposes to Sarah Essen. $1.00

< > BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 20 (O'Neil & Von Eeden + Braun + Garcia-Lopez) "Venom": part 5 (of 5) Batman caught in a conflict with drug-strengthened opponents, with Alfred's life hanging in the balance. RO $1.75

< > CAPTAIN ATOM 55 (Ostrander & M Adams + Tanghal) On a paradise of his own making Captain Atom finds the limitations to his own powers. $1.00

< > THE COMET 1 (Waid & Lyle) Continuation of the Impact Era with the introduction of new multi-powered human comet. $1.00

< > DOCTOR FATE 30 (Messner-Loebs & Giarrano + Gross) Doctor Fate tries to revive a dead policewoman - with less than positive results. RO $1.50

< > ENEMY ACE: WAR IDYLL (Softcover; Pratt) Featuring the return of Baron Hans Von Hammer ("Hammer of Hell"). An ex-'nam reporter visits the Hammer in a sanitarium in Germany, and they are surprised to discover shared experiences. 128pg $14.95

< > GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN II 4 (Giffen & G.Jones + Bright + Tanghal) "90 Days": Part 4 (of 6) Only Hal Jordan can save the people of Korugar who've been led into rebelling against Sinestro. $1.00

< > JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE 28 (Giffen & G Jones + Robertson + Elliot) More internecine warfare caused by the influence of the alien Starro. $1.00

< > NEW GODS 28 (Evanier & Hoberg + Blyberg) In the final issue of the series the "Fourth World" is about to witness the beginning of a new era, with a second Pact. RO $1.50

< > NEW TITANS ANNUAL 7 (Wolfman & Grindberg) Armageddon 2001 tie-in, with the second generation of Titans led by a strange Nightwing still searching for lost comrades captured by the Wildebeeste Society, featuring the new Teen Titans. 48pg $3.50

< > OMAC 2 (of 4; Byrne) Stranded in the '30s Depression without mentor Brother Eye, Buddy Blank cannot change to OMAC, while a romance is on the horizon. Prestige format. Mature readers. RO b&w 48pg $4.95

< > THE SHADOW STRIKES! 21 (G Jones & Whigham + Fernandez) Shiwan Khan is picking off the Shadow's agents, and he seems to be the next target. RO $2.00

< > SUICIDE SQUAD 55 (Ostrander & Yale + Isherwood + Campanella) "The Dragon's Horde": part 3 (of 5). The Yakuza threatens to kill Amanda Waller while Deadshot, Count Vertigo and Steelwolf meet the Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea. $1.00

< > TINY TOONS ADVENTURES MAGAZINE 4 Tiny Toons take the Big City by storm. Magazine. RO 32pg $1.95

ECLIPSE

< > APPLESEED BOOK TWO (Prometheus unbound paperback; Masamune Shirow) Collection of second series manga-style cyberpunk action, co-production with Studio Prometheus. b&w 192pg $12.95

< > FLY IN MY EYE EXPOSED Arcane/Eclipse anthology of horror, featuring work by Michael Zulli, Matt Howarth, J K Potter, Jeff Dickinson and Rick Geary with Clive Barker cover. Adult (V) b&w 128pg $12.95

< > KRAZY & IGNATZ: THE KOMPLETE KRAZY KAT KOMICS VOL 9:1924 (George Herriman) Entire 1924 classic dailies. Soft/hardcover. b&w 64pg $9.95/29.95

< > MIRACLEMAN 22 (Gaiman & Buckingnam) Conclusion of Miracleman Book 4: The Golden Age, with celebration of London's salvation from The Adversary Bates with a festival, introducing "The Silver Age" beginning in Miracleman 23. Mature readers. $2.50

< > VELOCITY 5 (Warren & Gary Pleece) Introducing The Higsons, an all-American family - a compote of cultural icons and anti-heroes; plus more "Great Unwashed" and "Dead Souls" and two short stories. Co-production with Acme Press. Magazine. b&w 32pg $2.95

EROS COMICS

**The following titles may not be imported due to their sexual content.

< > ANTON DREK'S FORBIDDEN FRANKENSTEIN 1 (Drek) Canadian Frankenstein's Monster. Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > BOX 2 (Sendlebach) Prequel to first issue. Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > CANDIDE REVEALED! 3 (Yaco & DeBeaver) Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > CANNON 6 (of 8; Wood) "The Reconstructed Man", with Cannon battling with an android to save Elena. Adult (N) b&w 40pg $2.95

< > THE COMPLETE PURPLE PICTOGRAPHY (Bode & Wrightson) Collection of all creators' strips appearing in men's magazines during '70s. Adult (S, N) 32pg $3.50

< > THE EROTIC WORLDS OF FRANK THORNE 6 Reprint of '70s story of a wizard and the Red Sonja phenomenon. Adult. 32pg $2.95

< > IRONWOOD 5 (Willingnam) Swords, sorcery and sex. Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > I WANT TO BE YOUR DOG 3 (of 5; Ho Che Anderson) Psycho-sexual series. Adult (S, N) Rescheduled. b&w 24pg $1.95

< > I WANT TO BE YOUR DOG 4 (of 5; Ho Che Anderson) Psycho-sexual series. Adult (S, N) Rescheduled. b&w 32pg $2.25

< > LOVE LETTERS IN THE HAND 1 (Hodson & Thorne) Drugs, murder and sex at an Australian seaside town. Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > R CRUMB'S ID 3 (R Crumb) Featuring the Demon Vulluresses, a new 20pg strip. Adult (S) b&w 36pg $2.50

< > SHOOTY BEAGLE 2 (Budgett & Dumm + Zabel) Arthurian American "Quest For the Holy Dish". Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > SLUG 'N' GINGER 1 (Knight) Battle of the sexes. Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > YOUNG WITCHES 3 (of 4; Barreiro & Lopez) More mysteries of the Cult of Ishtar. Adult (S, N) b&w 24pg $2.25

< > THE 2 LIVE CREW COMIC 1 Rock journalist Dave Marsh introduces the biographical series chronicling rappers 2 Live Crew. Cover: Stan Shaw. Adult (L) b&w 24pg $2.25

ETERNITY

< > THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (Graphic album; Powell & Timmons) Collection of series. b&w $9.95

< > CAPTAIN HARLOCK: DEATHSHADOW RISING 1 (of 4; Gibson & Eldred) Harlock and crew are trapped by the Illumidas and forced into battle with the their ship; new series. b&w $2.25

< > CAT CLAW 8 (Kerac) Feline heroine is pursued by hired killer Deathbringer. Adult (N) b&w $2.50

< > DAN TURNER: ACE IN THE HOLE 1 (Wooley & Turma + Durm) A set-up goes astray when the subject unexpectedly dies, plus reprint "Blackmail Bump-off". b&w $2.50

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< > PENTACLE: THE SIGN OF THE FIVE 4 (of 4; Cunningham & Ross) Five warlocks combine to defeat the powerful Kaji $2.50

< > ROBOTECH II: THE SENTINELS: CYBERPIRATES 3 (of 4; Spangler & Tenney + deMioche) Terry Watson gets a job at the Giles Academy, where an attempt is made on his life, and the Academy sponsor's identity is revealed. b&w $2.25

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< > SCIMIDAR BOOK 5: LIVING COLOUR 2 (of 4; Jones & Davis) Unsettling news from Scimitar for the locals as she tells of her encounter with the actor Andrew Pride. Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > SUBSPECIES 1 (of 4; Cunningham & Wyman + Pallot) Vampire king is telling his son Stefan the story of how he was tricked into fathering a demon, unaware that said demon Ramu is laying seige to his castle. Stefan sets out to vanquish his half-brother. Official continuation of the Paramount Pictures/Full Moon Productions film. Mature readers. $2.50

FANTACO

< > CREEPSHOW GRAPHIC NOVEL (Berni Wrightson) Reprint adaptation of George Romero/Stephen King film anthology. Cover: Jack Kamen. 64pg $7.95

< > GORE SHRIEK VOLUME 2 #3 (Mark Martin, Gurchain Singh, Eric Stanway & Dave McDowell, Eric Talbot and Steve Bissette) Adult (V) b&w $2.50

< > NIGHT'S CHILDREN 2 (of 4; Wendy Snow-Lang) Klaus' abuse and Julia's manipulation forces Billy to rebel, while his need for blood drives him to prey on the only person he can trust. Adult (V) b&w $3.50

FANTAGRAPHICS

< > AMAZING HEROES 191 Featuring interview with Alan ("Brit Pack") Davis, discussing his return to Marvel's Excalibur as writer and penciller. Plus news, reviews and articles. Magazine. b&w 100pg $3.95

< > ANA GRAPHIC ALBUM (Gabriel & F Solano Lopez) Reprints of Prime Cuts by Argentinian father and son team tells the story of a young woman's breakdown in a country controlled by a military regime, where, through a chance incident all her friends and family are either estranged or killed. Rescheduled. Adult (V) b&w 120pg $12.95

< > CARTOONS OF THE ROARING TWENTIES VOL 1: 1920 TO 1922 (of 3) Comics historian R C Harvey's selection from Life and other sources featuring artists Charles Dana Gibson, T S Sullivant, Harrison Cady, Montgomery Flagg and Percy Crosby. Rescheduled. b&w 72pg $8.95

< > COLIN UPTON'S BIG THING 2 (with Roberta Gregory) Anecdotes from a rock band's life on the road. Mature readers. b&w 28pg $2.25

< > COMICS JOURNAL 143 Interviews with Alan Moore, Donald Simpson, Robert Crumb, Reed Waller and Kate Worley in this special "Sex in Comics" issue. Magazine. b&w 120pg $4.95

< > THE COMPLETE LITTLE NEMO IN SLUMBERLAND VOL FIVE (Windsor McCay) Delux reprint of the strips from 1911-1912, with additional unseen artwork. Introduction by Richard Marschall. 100pg $35.00

< > CULTURAL JET LAG 1 (Tom Roberts & Jim Siergey) Deconstruction of the idea of "culture" for the '90s with Jean-Paul Sartre as an existential angel in "It's A Miserable Life", and Jason and the Argonauts reinterpreted as suburban youths' quest for the "golden brew". b&w 32pg $2.50

< > GROOTLORE 3 (of 3; Gullerud) Concluding part of Disney Studio designer's eco-fantasy. b&w $2.25

< > HATE 5 (Bagge) More boisterous male bonding from Buddy and Stinky. Mature readers. b&w 26pg $2.00

< > LUST OF THE NAZI WEASEL WOMEN 5 (Manzer) After crash-landing on Rory Randall's farm and robbing a bank Crash and the Easter Bunny finally land on the island of the Nazi Weasel Women. b&w 36pg $2.50

< > NEMO: THE CLASSICS COMICS LIBRARY 31/32 Biography of Peanuts creator Charles M Schulz. Rescheduled. b&w 80pg $6.95

< > REAL STUFF 3 Anthology of Dennis Eichhorn's stories with illustrations by syndicated artists. Mature readers. b&w 28pg £2.25

< > SCOTT RUSSO'S JIZZ 5 "Special Genetic Purity Issue". Mature readers. b&w 28pg $2.00

< > USAGI YOJIMBO 29 (Sakai) "Circles": part 2. When Usagi returns to his birthplace he finds that Jotaro, Mariko's son has been kidnapped by the demon-possessed Jei. b&w 36pg $2.25

FIRST COMICS

< > LONE WOLF & CUB 46 (Koike & Kojima) Mature readers. b&w 64pg $3.25

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< > FIRST MAITZ: SELECTED WORKS Anthology of artist Don Maitz's work. 96pg $17.95

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GLADSTONE

< > DICK TRACY ADVENTURE MAGAZINE 1 (Chester Gould) Reprint classics featuring Tracey's encounter with Little Face Finny Chicago gangster. Magazine. b&w 48pg $3.95

< > DICK TRACY ADVENTURES 1 (Chester Gould) Prestige format series featuring 1942 classic confrontation with BB Eyes in the bootleg market, with first instalment of "Dick Tracy's Rogue's Gallery". 72pg $4.95

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< > COLOUR OF MAGIC 3 (Rockwell & Ross) Adaptation of the "Discworld" novel. Mature readers. $2.50

< > DESERT STORM: SEND HUSSEIN TO HELL! 1 Endorsement comic for the US troops in the Gulf. Mature readers. 76pg $2.95

< > INNOVATION'S SUMMER FUN SPECIAL 1 Featuring work by Campiti, Jones, Barr, Isabella, Clark, Gustovich, Hubening. Mature readers. Part-colour. $3.50

< > LOST IN SPACE 2 (of 12; Broderick & Mumy + Thompson) While trapped in a cavern on an alien world the Robinsons reminisce. $2.50

< > THE MAZE AGENCY 23 (Barr & Bufano + Oeming) Featuring special "biosphere" space theme. Cover: Brian Stelfreeze. $2.50

< > NIGHTMARES ON ELM STREET 1 (Mangels & Gomez + Witherby) Freddy Krueger's back. Mature readers. $2.50

< > THUNDERSAURS 1 (G Broderick & Siegenthaler) Dinosaurs action in all-age comic. b&w $2.25

< > TORCHY 3 Reprint of Bill Ward's "classic" series. b&w $2.50

< > THE VAMPIRE LESTAT 11 (of 12; Adaptation; Perozich & Gross + Pace) Anne Rice's second novel in the Vampire trilogy. Cover: John Bolton. Mature readers. $2.50

JADEMAN COMICS

< > BLOOD SWORD 35 68pg $1.95

< > BLOOD SWORD DYNASTY 22 36pg $1.25

< > DRUNKEN FIST 35 68pg $1.95

< > FORCE OF BUDDHA'S PALM 35 68pg $1.95

< > IRON MARSHAL 12 36pg $1.75

< > ORIENTAL HEROES 35 68pg $1.95

KITCHEN SINK

< > THE COMPLETE COLOUR TERRY & THE PIRATES VOL 1 (Milton Caniff) Co-production with Remco Worldservice Books reprint from the 1934-46, with this first from October '34 to August '35. Introduced by comics historian Rick Marschall. Hardcover. 96pg $34.95

< > COTTON WOODS (Ray Gotto)

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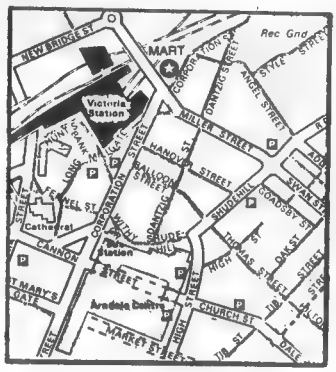

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< > THE SPIRIT 79 Reprint of the post-Eisner era with four stories from 1952, with analysis from Eisner and series editor Tom Heintjes, and new cover from Eisner. b&w $2.00

< > TO THE HEART OF THE STORM (Will Eisner) Eisner's first graphic novel in two years, a largely autobiographical story of a family's history against a background of war and prejudice. The opening sequence is a young soldier's reflections whilst travelling to a basic training camp during WWII. Soft/hardcover and limited edition signed hardcover. b&w 208pg $14.95 / $24.95.

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING MAY 7TH

< > AVENGERS WEST COAST 72 (R Thomas & Butler + Bulanadi) Continuation of "Pacific Overlords" story with new team member Spider-Woman. $1.00

< > BLACK PANTHER: PANTHER'S PREY 3 (of 4; McGregor & D Turner) The Wakanada drug crises leads T'Challa to Washington DC and a reunion with Monica Lynn, plus more about the Black Panther's powers and the vibranium mining. Rescheduled. RI $4.95

< > BLUEBERRY: TRAIL OF THE SIOUX (Graphic novel; J-M Charlier & Moebius) Continuation of the "Dances With Wolves" style Blueberry adventures. $8.95

< > CAPTAIN AMERICA 387 (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) First issue of bi-weekly run in continuing 50th Anniversary celebrations. $1.00

< > DAMAGE CONTROL III 2 (of 4; McDuffie & Baker) Guesting the Incredible Hulk and New Warriors as Edifice Rex returns to "clean up" the universe, while the movie's not showing promise. $1.25

< > DAREDEVIL 294 (Chichester & Weeks + Williamson) 2nd part of the Punisher guest shot with Ghost Rider and Daredevil in alliance against The Hand, while the Kingpin expands his media empire. $1.00

< > DARKHAWK 5 (Fingeroth & Manley) Revelations about the origin of the Darkhawk amulet. $1.00

< > FOOLKILLER 9 (of 10; Gerber & Birch + Giarrano) The whole of NY city combines to bring down the Foolkiller. Mature readers. RO $1.75

< > NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER 16 (John Byrne) The Punisher gets near drug-dealing Desmond Marrs while the Rand Corporation team battle with the Savage Land inhabitants. $1.00

< > SHE-HULK 29 (L Simonson & Levins + Sanders) In a two-parter the She-Hulk teams up with Wolverine, the Hulk and Spider-man against a mad scientist. Guesting Spider-Man villain Venom. Cover: Mike Zeck. RO $1.50

< > SILVER SURFER ANNUAL 4 (Marz & Lim + Christoopher) Reprint of the "Korvac Quest" story from Thor Annual 16 with futuristic battle between the Surfer and Guardians of the Galaxy. Concluded in Guardians of the Galaxy Annual 1. $2.00

< > SPIDER-MAN SAGA 1 (of 4; Herdling & various) Spider-Man's early days with reprints from Amazing Fantasy 15 through to Amazing Spider-Man 100. Cover: Todd McFarlane. Rescheduled. RO $2.95

< > SWEET XVI 3 (of 6; Barbara Slate) More dilemmas surrounding Cleo's Sweet 16 party. $1.00

< > THE UNCANNY X-MEN 278 (Claremont & P Smith + Thibert) While the X-Men bring Professor X back, Rogue encounters the Shadow King on Muir Island. $1.00

< > WEB OF SPIDER-MAN 78 (Kavanagh & Savuik + K Williams) Spider-Man's dilemma: whether to save tenants from a collapsed building, or save himself from the villain Scorch. Guesting Cloak & Dagger. $1.00.

SHIPPING MAY 14TH

< > AKIRA 30 (Otomo & Duffy + Oliff) After battling with Us military jets, Tetsuo is faced with Kay, while Kaneda's attack force approaches the heart of the Great Tokyo Empire. Mature readers. RI $3.95

< > ALF 43 (Gallagher & Manak + Severin) Alf installs a Melmacian alarm after a break-in at the Tanner home. $1.00

< > ALPHA FLIGHT 98 (Nicieza & Bair + Ivy) "Final Option": part 2 (of 4). Alpha and the Avengers are called after Her and the Consortium's battle ruins Toronto. RO $1.50

< > ALPHA FLIGHT SPECIAL 1 (of 4; Nicieza & Bair + Ivy) Reprint of Alpha Flight 97 as return to newsstands test. To run through to issue 100. RO $1.50

< > AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 349 (Michelinie & Larsen + Emberlin) Guesting The Black Fox, leading to the 350th-issue confrontation with Doctor Doom. $1.00

< > BARBIE 7 (Slate & Trusiani + Cool + Conner + Brigman) All-travel issue. RO $1.00

< > DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN 3 (of 4; Fingeroth & Milgrom + Gammill) Deadly Foes split into two and surround Spider-Man. $1.00

< > GHOST RIDER 15 (Mackie & Texiera) Conclusion of the Johnny Blaze story as Ghost Rider and he battle H.E.A.R.T and Black Out. RO $1.75

< > GROO THE WANDERER 79 (Aragones & Evanier) Groo is hired as assassin by two warring groups of monks. $1.00

< > GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL 1 (Valantino & Montano) "The Korvac Quest": continued from Silver Surfer Annual 4. $2.00

< > MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 80 Featuring "Wolverine: Weapon X" (part 9 of 13; Barry Windsor-Smith); "Captain America" (part 1 of 2; Ditko & Austin); "Daughters of the Dragon" (Duffy & Tsuda); "Dr Strange" (Campanella & Gieger). Cover: Barry Windsor-Smith. $1.25

< > METROPOL 5 (Ted McKeever) In the first of a 2-parter "No One Move a Muscle as the Dead Come Home", the dead are resurrected when five "angels" and five "demons" are players in mankind's last days. Mature readers. RO 32pg $2.95

< > MIGHTY MOUSE 10 (Slott & Kazaleh + Severin) When MM appears on a late-night chat show to promote a book he meets the "Night of the Ratings Lunatics". $1.00

< > THE ORIGINAL GHOST RIDER RIDES AGAIN 1 (of 7; Stern & Budiansky + Rubenstein + Simons) Reprint of Ghost Rider Vol 1 #68 & 69. $1.50

< > PUNISHER: P.O.V. 1 (of 4; Starlin & Wrightson) The Punisher hunts a vampire, with a psychopath and Nick Fury joining in. RI $4.95

< > QUASAR 24 (Gruenwald + Capullo & K Williams) "Cosmos in Collusion": part 6 (of 7) Guesting Thanos, Galactus and the Celestials as the Cosmic Enemy destroys the universe and Quasar meets Infinity. $1.00

< > SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN 187 (Yakata & Chan) Conan in ultimately-matched battle with a Cimmerian. b&w 60pg $2.25

< > SILVER SURFER: PARABLE (Softcover; Lee & Moebius) On a future Earth, no one remembers the devourer of worlds - Galactus - except the Surfer, who is the salvation of the planet. With sketches by Moebius and commentary by Stan Lee plus new material not previously published. $9.95

< > SLEEPWALKER 2 (Budiansky & Blevins) Rick discovers that Sleepwalker is real, but can't decide whether he is friend or foe, plus Sleepwalker meets his first super-villain, 8-Ball. $1.00 < > TOXIC AVENGER 4 (Moench & Ramos) Sleazy tabloid reporter in Tromaville in search of sensation, while the chairman of Apocalypse Inc sets out to capture Toxic. RO $1.50 < > WOLVERINE 41 (Hama & Silvestri + Green) Wolverine enters the Morlock tunnels to find out whether Sabretooth is dead. RO $1.75 < > ZORRO 8 (of 12; Rimmer & Taylor) Zorro helps his former fencing tutor when he arrives in LA chased by bounty hunters. $1.00

SHIPPING MAY 21ST

< > AVENGERS 334 (Harris et al) First of this year's bi-weekly issues sees the Inhumans calling on the Avengers for help when the Collector's ship crash-lands on the Moon. $1.00

< > CAPTAIN AMERICA 388 (Gruenwald & Levins + Bulanadi) Wrap-up of 50th Anniversary celebrations in second bi-weekly issue. $1.00

< > CAR WARRIORS 2 (of 4; Dixon & Dillon + Winslade) Adaptation of the "Car Wars" game, with the big race getting underway and the introduction of some of the drivers. RO $2.25

< > CONAN 246 (Thomas & Hartle + DeCarlo) Conan, Red Sonja and Zula lead the fight to save the city of Khorajah from Natohk the Undead's creature of mist. $1.00

< > DOUBLE DRAGON 1 (of 6; McDuffie & Stroman + Vancanta) Nintendo Games spin-off with the adventures of Billy and Jimmy Lee, with their mystical

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Dragon Force, fighting in the future city of Oligopolis. $1.00

< > EXCALIBUR 39 (Lobdell & Badger) Concluding the 3-parter, Alpha and the Avengers West fight with Doctor Doom along with legions of limbo's demons. RO $1.75

< > EXCALIBUR SPECIAL (Higgins & Morgan) Even the Phoenix power can't help Meggan, possessed by a telepath from the X-Men's past, and a seance held to help her results in the other team members having to face their own ghosts. RO 48pg $2.95

< > GI JOE 114 (Hama & Statema + Emberlin) The Middle East conflict continues as the Joes fight to gain the emirate of Benzheen from the forces of Cobra. $1.00

< > GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 14 (Valentino & Montano) Guest star Ghost Rider battles with the Guardians as the Church of Universal Truth draws in for the kill. $1.00

< > INCREDIBLE HULK 383 (David & Keown + Farmer) In this "Infinity Gauntlet" crossover the Abomination returns in an attempt to kidnap his former wife, a famous Soviet actress - but not if the Hulk can help it. $1.00

< > THE INFINITY GAUNTLET 1 (of 6; Starlin & Perez) Thanos proves his love to his Mistress Death by destroying half the sentient beings in the universe, with his total control over Mind, Soul, Time, Space, Power and Reality created by the Infinity Gems welded into his gauntlet. Nearly all Marvel heroes will star in this ultimate cross-over series. RO $2.50

< > MARVEL AGE 102 Featuring interviews and previews of new Marvel series with customary columns. $1.00

< > MARVEL SUPER HEROES 6 Featuring "X-Men" (part 1 of 3; Roy & Dann Thomas + Buckler + Sanders III); "Power Pack" (Higgins & Buccellato); "Speedball" (Duffy & Ditko + Adkins); "Sabra" (Lobdell & Abrams + Buccellato). 64pg $2.95

< > MARVEL TALES 251 (Lee & Kane + Giocoia) Reprint of Amazing Spider-Man 100. $1.00

< > NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL 11 (Nicieza & Yap) "Flesh Tears": part 1 (of 4) First of cross-over into all this year's mutant annuals and the first New Warriors annual. $2.00

< > NIGHTBREED 10 (Chichester & Blevins + Villagran) Continuation of "The Blasphemers" story with Cabal staking his claim to the leadership. Mature readers. RO $2.25

< > OLYMPIANS 1 (of 2; Jewell & Chaloner + Martin) Parody of "kinder, gentler" super-hero, Max Tarrant, who finds himself nominated Director of Super Heroes at the Ministry of Superheroics in the Claremont Building, London; all this causes him some problems with his wife, who becomes another hero's sidekick. RI $3.95

< > PUNISHER 50 (Baron & Haynes + Palmiotti) Double-sized issue, with the Punisher confronting Yo Yo Ng, who uses techno-tactics to gain control over California's small water supply. Plus "Punisher's Armory" pages. 48pg $1.50

< > ROBOCOP 17 (Furman & Sullivan + Candelario) While RoboCop deals with new villain the Wraith, Anne Lewis is blackmailed into stealing police documents. RO $1.50

< > SAMURAI CAT 2 (of 3; Macchio & Ciracco + Hummel) Adaptation of Mark E Rogers **Samurai Cat** - Miaowara Tomokato, with the Cat being joined by Con-Ed the Barbarian in his quest to avenge his master's death. RO $2.25

< > SHIELD 25 (Chichester & Guice + Hazelwood) Fury's sanity is in question after he calls for a strike against Hydra following their destruction of SHIELD Central. RO $1.50

< > SPIDER-MAN 12 (McFarlane) Perceptions: part 5 (of 5) The wraps are off in the Canadian wilderness when the identity of the child murderer is revealed. RO $1.75

< > WHAT IF? 27 (Marz & Curtis) "What If Sub-Mariner Had Joined the FF?" - he would have fallen for Sue Storm, and in this alternative universe he finds she has with him. $1.25 < > X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PRESENT (Trade paperback) Reprint of storyline from Fantastic Four Annual 23, X-Men Annual 14, X-Factor Annual 5, and New Mutants Annual 10. Interior art: Art Adams, Jackson Guice and others. Cover: Mike Mignola. RI $14.95

SHIPPING MAY 28TH

< > BARBIE FASHION 7 (Trusiani & Slate + Connor) Barbie shoots a tv commercial. RO $1.00

< > CONAN SAGA 52 (Thomas & J Buscema + Gand) Searching for Belit, Conan follows the Dragon Raiders, to find that she's now held captive by Amra the Savage. Plus continued reprint from Conan, "The Ballad of Belit". Magazine. b&w $2.25.

< > DEATHLOK 1 (McDuffie & Wright + D Cowan + Manley) New regular series follows on from 1990 limited series with Deathlok being gradually integrated into the Marvel Universe. RO $1.75

< > DOCTOR STRANGE 31 (R Thomas & Marrinan + McKeever) In this Infinity Gauntlet cross-over, the Doctor acts on the Silver Surfer's warning of Thanos' threat to the universe. RO $1.50

< > FANTASTIC FOUR 354 (Walt Simonson) The secrets of the Time Variance Authority are revealed. $1.00 < > IRON MAN 270 (Byrne & Ryan + Wiacek) While Tony falls in love in China, Rhodey gets to put on the costume to fight the Mandarin. $1.00 < > MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 81 "Wolverine Weapon X" (part 10 of 13; Barry Windsor-Smith); "Captain America" (part 2 of 2; Ditko & Austin); "Daredevil" (Denatale & Rogers); "Ant-Man" (Sandy Plunkett). $1.25

< > MARVEL UNIVERSE: MASTER EDITION 8 Loose-leaf format, including portraits of the Incredible Hulk, Charlie-27 and Skids. RO 48pg $3.95

< > MOON KNIGHT 28 (DeMatteis & Garney + Palmer) "Scarlet Redemption": part 3 (of 5). While the Moon Knight drowns his life passes before his eyes. Cover: Bill Sienkiewicz. RO $1.50

< > THE NAM 58 (Dixon & VanSant + DeZuniga) "The Death of Joe Hallen": part 5 (of 5). Hallen is court-martialled after a revenge trip to Saigon. RO $1.50

< > NEW WARRIORS 13 (Nicieza & Bagley + Mahlstedt) "Forever Yesterday": part 3 (of 3) Conclusion of this story sees changes that will affect several of the New Warriors lives for ever. $1.00

< > NEW WARRIORS ANNUAL 1 (Nicieza & Bagley) "Flesh Tears": part 2 (of 4). Continuation of the mutant cross-over storyline with back-up features on the origins of the New Warriors (Fein & Morgan). $2.00

< > NEW WARRIORS 1: GOLD EDITION Reprint of New Warriors 1 with gold ink covers. $1.00

< > PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL 32 (Baron & A Kubert) "The Kamchatkan Konspiracy": part 2 (of 3) Punisher forms an uneasy alliance with female eco-terrorists when a renegade Soviet general attacks an Alaskan pipeline. Cover: Bob Larkin. RO $1.75

< > SILVER SURFER 51 (Marz & Lim + Christopher) Infinity Gauntlet cross-over with Galactus and Thanos clashing. $1.00

< > SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN 177 (DeMatteis & s Buscema) First part of new story sees Harry Osborne reflecting on his relationship with his father (the original Green Goblin) and his son. $1.00

< > THOR 434 (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) While travelling to Asgard Thor encounters Balder, Sif and the Warriors Three. $1.00

< > TRANSFORMERS 80 (Furman & Wildman + Baskerville) Final issue of the series, where the Decepticons defeat the Autobots and enslave their world; Optimus Prime comes to the rescue. $1.00

< > WHAT THE -?! 13 New Marvel parodies with creators Stan Lee, Bob Wiacek, Dutter, K Wilson, Warden, Proudfoot, Quesada, Kupperberg and John Byrne. $1.25

< > WOLVERINE 42 (Hama & Silvestri + Green) Wolverine's continued journey through the tunnels of Morlock. RO $1.75

< > X-FACTOR 68 (Lee " & Portacio + Thibert) As Scott's son dies, Apocalypse takes revenge again on Cyclops and X-Factor, while Scott is faced with a terrible choice. $1.00

< > X-MEN CLASSIC 60 Reprint of X-Men 157 (Claremont & Cockrum + Wiacek). Cover: Mike Mignola. $1.25

MIRAGE STUDIOS

< > TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES 37 (McCollum & Anderson) "The Twilight of the Rings": Turtles enter battle symbolic of the ancient conflict between mammals and reptiles. b&w 40pg $2.00

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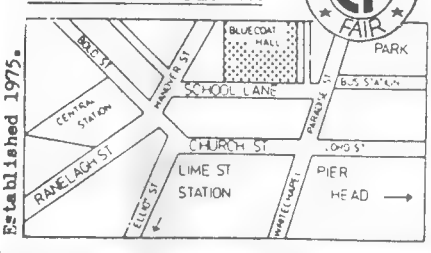

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SATURDAY 13th JULY

The LIVERPOOL COMIC MARTS were established at the Bluecoat Chambers in 1975 by Zephyr, and have run regularly ever since. Hot on the heels of London and Birmingham, the 'pool was the third city to cater for U.S.-comicollectors, and has remained an important date for collectors ever since. The Marts were built up on extensive leafletting, advertising and goodwill freebies and guests. In 1980 I lapsed from comics, and passed the Marts over to Fantasy World who maintained the established traditions until the mid-'80s, when they passed on to Paul Schofield. Paul preserved the Mart's identity whilst injecting fresh blood, until earlier this year, when he deceided to call it a day, and the Marts returned full circle to their original organisers. The next Mart is on Saturday July the 13th and stalls (still the cheapest in Britain) are £12 (central) and £15 (wall), payable on the day (but bookable in advance). Full details and booking form are available by sending an S.A.E. marked 'Marts' to me at; ZEPHYR, P.O.BOX 6, LISCARD, WALLASEY, MERSEYSIDE, L45 4SJ. (Trevor L. Hughes

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(Wilkinson) Cross between The Terminator and A Boy and His Dog, the women and men of the Project fight mutants in a post-apocalyptic world. b&w 24pg $1.95

< > HOLO BROS 3 (of 10; Rohn) "Straight Jacket" tells the story of the Holos splitting up to find out who tried to kill the High Exalted Grand Universal Sacred Galactic Holy Emperor. b&w 24pg $1.95

< > KING KONG 4 (of 6; Adaptation; Simpson) Above his mountain lair King Kong fights pterodactyls. b&w 24pg $1.95

< > THE MUMMY 4 (of 4; Beaderstadt) Concluding with Doctor Clarke and Prof. Belmore's confrontation with the Great Carloph. b&w 24pg $1.95

< > PREY 1 (of 3; Nixey) Demons, witches, barbarians form the backdrop for Prey, searching for the destroyers of his tribe. b&w 24pg $1.95

< > ROGUE 1: DAWNRAZOR (of 4; Price & Dutch) A mutant man-duck UbaHo leads the battle against the "mechs" who are determined to destroy what's left of the human race. b&w 24pg $1.95

PURE IMAGINATION

< > PURE IMAGES 5 Jack "King" Kirby biography, including an interview with him about his WWII experiences with a portfolio of Kirby characters inked by Gordon, Gibbons, Ordway and Machlan. Part-colour. 44pg $2.50

RECOLLECTIONS

< > THE ORIGINAL BLACK CAT 6 50th Anniversary issue reprints her first appearance in Pocket Comics 1 (Harvey & Gabriele) and "Who's Who?" from Black Cat 1 and "The Nobleman's Curse" (Elias). Rescheduled. Part-colour. $2.00

< > THE SILVER SCREAM 2 (Art: Powell, Nostrand and Meskin) Horror anthology. Rescheduled. Adult (V) b&w $2.00

< > WAR HEROES 2 Reprint WWII classics, with the Black Cat in "Doom For Traitors" (Kubert); Girl Commandos in "Murder and the Masquerade of Mei-Ling" (Jill Elgin); "The Spirit of '76" (Powell) and "The Hawk of Hirohito"(Mais). Rescheduled. b&w $2.00

REVOLUTIONARY

< > ROCK'N'ROLL COMICS 29 (Sanford & Immonen) Part 2 of the Black Sabbath/ Ozzy Osbourne biog. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

< > ROCK'N'ROLL COMICS 30 (Sanford & Fox) Biog of The Cure. Mature readers. b&w $2.50

< > ROCK & ROLL COMICS MAGAZINE 9 Reprint of Rock & Roll Comics 4 & 15, with biogs of Motley Crue and Poison. Mature readers. Magazine. b&w 68pg $2.95

< > ROCK N' ROLL COMICS SUPERSTARS (Trade paperback) Reprints of biogs of Madonna, Prince, Public Enemy, 2 Live Crew and New Kids on the Block. Rescheduled. Mature readers. b&w $6.95

RIP OFF PRESS

< > DOLL 6 (Colwell) Adult (S, N) b&w 36pg $2.50

< > ILLUMINATUS! 4 (Adaptation: Steele & Piccione) Robert Anton Wilson and Robert Shea's classic trilogy sees George Dorn taken on a submarine tour of Atlantis. Mature readers. b&w 36pg $2.50

< > LITTLE GRETA GARBAGE 2 (R L Crabb) Greta entertains soldiers on their way to the Gulf. Adult (S, N) b&w 36pg $2.50

< > MISS TIMED 3 (Mangels & The Mazz + Frick) Annie, in 1993 , discovers President Quayle in shock after an alien invasion. Adult (S, N) b&w 36pg $2.50

< > SAVAGE HENRY 15 (Howarth) More about Savage Henry's connection with the politically subversive band The Bulldaggers. Rescheduled. Mature readers. b&w 36pg $2.00

< > STRIPS 10 (Austen) Adult (S, N) b&w 36pg $2.50

SLAVE LABOR

< > ARIANNE 1 (Nieves & Tuazon) Adult (S, N) b&w $2.50

< > OBLIVION CITY 2 (Garcia) Mature readers. b&w $2.50

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< > PEEK-A-BOO 3-D (Art: Ward) First 3-D appearance for Betty Page and Torchy, and Gene Bilbrew material. 3-D glasses included. 24pg $3.95

TSR

< > THE WORLDS OF R.I.P. 4 (of 4: Powell & Olliffe) "The Battle For Smithville": part 4 (of 4) Dracula launches his army of zombies, mummies and ghouls on the citizens of Smithville. 40pg $2.95

< > THE WORLDS OF 13: ASSASSIN 4 (of 4; Moench & Phipps) "The Brotherhood Conspiracy": part 4 (of 4) Agent 13 uncovers the complex conspiracy leading to migration to secret Moon bases. 40pg $2.95

TUNDRA PUBLISHING

< > SCORCHED EARTH 2 (of 6; Gaydos & Gentile) In this eco-SF adventure industrial technocrat seeks control of the chaos, realising that his son is the heir to the planet's future in a technology vs Indian magic issue. Recycled paper. 32pg $2.95

< > TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES ADVENTURES VOLS 1-4 (Trade paperback) Reprint of Archie Comics' Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 5-16. Recoloured pages by Wray and Lavigne. 96pg $5.95

< > TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II MOVIE ADAPTATION: The Secret of the Ooze (Clarrain & Lawson + Lewis) Turtles discover The Shredder still lives and has created new mutants to fight them. Plus 4 additional pages of material not in the Archie Comics version. Prestige format. 64pg $5.95

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< > ADVENTURES OF THE SUPER MARIO BROTHERS 7 A bunch of Shyguys bust Mario's chance for the "Man of the Year" award, while Princess Lana and Samus Aran are held captive on Prison World. 32pg $1.50

< > LEGEND OF ZELDA 7 Link will be King according to The Triforce of Wisdom in "It's Good To Be King" plus Zelda's kiss in "Kiss Me, Princess". 32pg $1.50

< > MAGNUS: ROBOT FIGHTER 3 (Shooter & Cullins + Layton) "Steel Nation"; part 3 (of 4). As the war between humans and robots continues a new robot leader Tekla emerges, who becomes Magnus' ally in his quest for peace. 32pg $1.75

< > NINTENDO COMICS SYSTEM 7 Mario and Luigi travel to Pipe Land to find out why the tapwater in Mushroom Land has turned to "purple glop". Plus back-up "Punch Out" stars Little Mac in a match against Tokyo's fiercest boxer. 32pg $1.50

< > SUPER MARIO BROTHERS 7 Mario in trouble with King Koopa and the ruler of Subcon, plus back-up story "Just A Dog" with Kid Icarus, Captain N and Duke facing a whole army. 32pg $1.50

VIZ

< > CRYING FREEMAN PART THREE #1 (of 10; Koike & Ikegami) Freeman's ally Dark Eyes is injured by the giant killer wrestler Oshu. Adult (N, V) 40pg $4.95

< > CRYING FREEMAN: PORTRAIT OF A KILLER PART TWO (Koike & Ikegami) Conclusion of Book One of the Far East assassin Mr Yo. Adult (N, V) b&w 240pg $16.95

< > HOROBI BOOK TWO #6 (of 7; Yoshihisa Tagami) Zen and Shuichi battle, and Japan's survival is in the balance. Mature readers. b&w 64pg $4.25

< > THE PROFESSIONAL: GOLGO 13 #2 (of 6; Takao Saito) Golgo swallows poison to get to Juan Peron in hospital, surrounded by hundreds of guards. 48pg $4.95

< > SABER TIGER (Yukinobu Hoshino) Prehistoric savagery, space age science and mythology from the creator of 2001 Nights. b&w 80pg $12.95

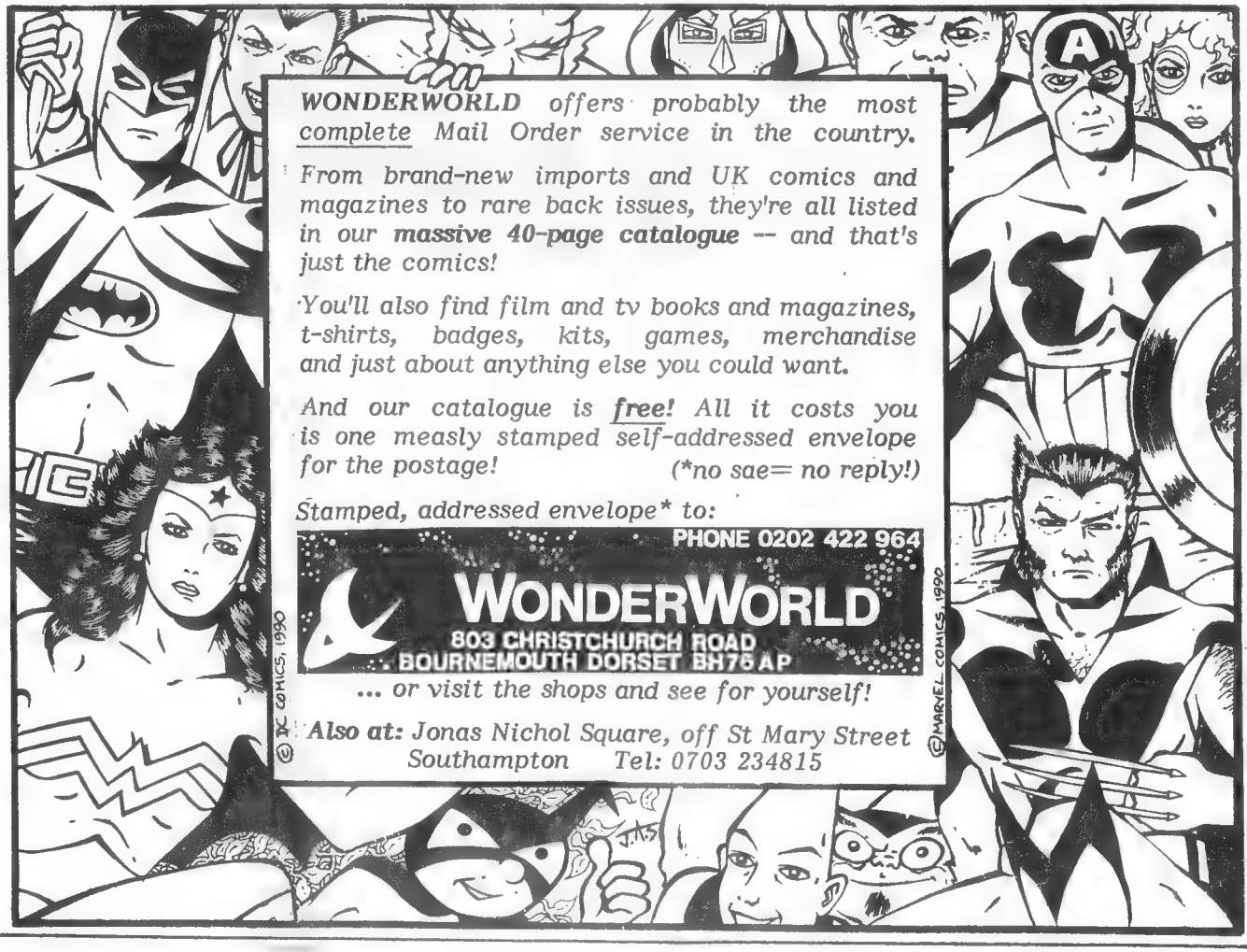
VORTEX

< > THE LEGENDS OF NASCAR 3 (Wiad & Trimpe) One of sport's all-time greats "King" Richard Petty. 32pg $2.00

< > MISTER X 18 (Edgington & Holewczynski) Part 3 of "Mister Ex". b&w 28pg $2.50

WaRP GRAPHICS

< > ELFQUEST: KINGS OF THE BROKEN WHEEL 6 (Richard & Wendy Pini) Winnowill escapes from her island prison and regains control of Rayek of the Palace of the High Ones, and uses him as a pawn in her revenge against Cutter and the Wolfriders. b&w 32pg $2.00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ind = US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit = British comics
frgn = foreign language titles
u/gs = underground comics
ppbks = related paperbacks
hbks = related hardbacks
m/o = mail order service
STO = new comics reserved
RPG = role-playing games

LONDON

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Reviewing panel: Ahmet Ali, Sarah Bolesworth, Les Chester, Jason Cobley, Jonathan Farmer, Steven Fountain, Phil Hall, Peter Hayward-Brewer, Danny King, Skinny Melink, John Morell, Peter C. Phillips, Derek G. Skinn and Alan Woollcombe

DC COMICS

ACTION 664 <+> (Stern & McLeod) Banished to prehistoric times (courtesy of Blue Beetle and Roger Stern) Chronos receives a visit from Superman in slow moving episode. (PCP) 7

<-> Exceptional time travel storyline is starting to slow down as current events in Metropolis are far more interesting, and cry out to be dealt with by both Superman and the writers. (SM) 7

ACTION COMICS 665 <-> (Stern & Grummet) Back from his time-travelling, it's business as usual for the Man of Steel - in the arms of Lois, the offices of The Planet, the zombies of Baron Sunday.(AW) 6

ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY 16 <++> (Moore & Swan + DeMulder) Clark winds up in 2001 AD and meets himself as Superman. The secret of Dancer is revealed and while the denouement is telegraphed it remains solid entertainment. (PCP) 8

<++> This book continues its upswing story and Superboy and Superman actually get together. A real fun cover, and the Swan art inside is excellent. Dancer makes an interesting villainess, let's hope she returns soon. (PHB) 8

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 478 <+> (Jurgens & Breeding) Back to the future goes Superman and a team-up with the middle-era Legion of Super-Heroes in a re-match with the Sun-Eater. Nice to see the familiar LSH costumes again. (PCP) 8

<- -> Highly disappointing wrap-up to the seven part cross-over that began so strongly, only to peter out three quarters of the way through and stumble to an awkward, jerky halt. (SM) 5

<+++> Dev-em enters the post-Crisis DC Universe, and he's as close to the original Guy Gardner is to Hal Jordan, however the story is good with lots of action and the Legionnaires as they should be depicted. (If only Dan was working on the Legion book.) Laurel Gand looks great and Saturn Girl saves the day. Supes finally gets home, thank goodness, as this time hopping might have become as tedious as Excalibur's cross time caper. (PHB) 8

ANGEL AND THE APE 2 <+> (Foglio & Wilson) A myth is destroyed - even Dumb Bunny has a brain (it seems) as she and Angel are mind-manipulated by Gorilla Grodd. Hardly a taxing read but entertaining nonetheless. (PCP) 8

<+++> This continues to be a great mini-series, Foglio's art is rather cartoony, but he still gives all the characters life. The Inferior Five appear, they are fabulous, and should get their own series. Gorilla Grodd is the villain of the piece, and has the best line of the month "I forgot the JLA when that meant something". (PHB) 9

ANIMAL MAN 34 <++> (Veitch & Dillon) After months of Buddy's trials and tribulations identity-wise, it's physical problems that now take the centre stage as his powers begin to affect his daughter's behaviour. (PCP) 7

<+ -> Wherein Animal Man meets the enemy, and it is he! New team settling in nicely. Veitch picks up right where his predecessor's left off, and it's nice to see so much of Dillon. (SM) 9

ANIMAL MAN 36 <+ -> (Veitch & Dillon) Veitch has found a comfortable groove, and the result is an engaging, if unspectacular storyline, buoyed nicely along by Dillon's smooth, pleasing pencils. (SM) 8

ARMAGEDDON 2001 1 (Goodwin & Jurgens + Giordano) Ten years from now, all of Earth's heroes are destroyed by one of their own. To discover who the killer is - and seeking to change history - Mathew Ryder travels back in time becoming new hero Waverider in the process. Intriguing opener, as one would expect from Archie Goodwin, that forms the basis for the bulk of this year's DC annuals. (PCP) 9

It's been a while since one of these mega cross-overs was much good, so this tale of a hero in the making comes as a pleasant surprise, though it remains to be seen whether or not DC can really sustain it through a dozen annuals. So far so good, but there's a long way yet to go. (SM) 9

BATMAN 461 <++> (Grant & Breyfogle + Mitchell) Vicki Vale, Sarah Essen and Cat-Woman form comfortable (for them) alliance when captured by White Slavers. Batman takes a back seat in enthralling adventure. (PCP) 8

BATMAN 462 <++> (Grant & Breyfogle + Mitchell) The murder of a collector of Amerind artefacts provides Batman with a long-awaited chance to play detective. Scintillating opener from a creative team on top form. (PCP) 9

BATMAN: BRIDE OF THE DEMON (Barr & Grindberg) This graphic novel is not so much a Batman story as a reworking of several James Bond movies. Cliche-ridden with more plot craters than holes. Artwise, Grindberg is a Neal Adams clone and proves it here by swiping every Adams Batman illo in existence. Expensive nonsense. (PCP) 3

BATMAN: THE DAILIES 1944-1945 Jack Schiff has oft been vilified by Batman fans for his tenure as editor of the comic book series (Batman / Detective / World's Finest), notably the period which saw many of the bizarre alien protagonists. Yet he was also the editor, and occasional writer, of the comics during the '40s and shows his talents as a mystery writer of some worth in this collection (with other stories by Al Schwartz). It makes one wonder whether Schiff's reliance on such outlandish fare came about as a direct result of the crackdown on comics, the birth of the Comics Code, and the swing away from crime fiction, which, like horror, had taken a fair share of the criticism. One episode herein (illustrated by Jack Burnley and Charles Paris) in which Bruce Wayne takes centre stage and neither he nor Dick Grayson appear in costume throughout the continuity, is a classic of the film noir school (featuring caricatures of Bacall, Bogart & Greenstreet) and which gives pause to consider anew Schiff's contribution to the Batman myth. Bob Kane & Paris contribute the art for the remaining episodes in yet another satisfying collection. (PCP) 10

BATMAN: THE DAILIES 1945-1946 Six more stories brings the collection of daily stories to a close. Why the strip failed is a mystery; poor syndication perhaps? Or maybe reading the episodes in one sitting gives a different overview than when read on a day-by-day basis. Stories by Schwartz, Schiff & Finger; art by Kane, Burnley, Dick Sprang and Stan Kaye. All respect due to Kitchen Sink and DC for putting together this package, and roll on the Sunday reprint. (PCP) 10

BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 17 <- -> (O'Neil & Von Eden + Braun + Garcia-Lopez) The new five-parter "Venom", after a promising kick-off last issue, is a significant dip compared to Moench's preceding "Prey" story. The central drama of Batman's steroid addiction is let down by a sketchy plot that isn't worthy of past O'Neil scripts, although the '70s-esque dynamics of the artwork provide a sturdy support that manages to hold the roof up.

Still unmissable but a disappointment compared to the standard set by previous issues. (JC) 7

<- -> Steroids make Batman even more obsessive than usual. Without credits it would be easy to believe this was written by someone lacking any knowledge of the Batman's character and background. Unfortunately, it's written by Denny O'Neil, who should know better. The absolute pits! (PCP) 0

<+ -> Tense, quick-moving story as Batman gets strung out on steroid-like pills, done justice by Von Eeden's and Braun's bold pencils. As usual, here, however, it's Steve Oliffe's revolutionary colouring process that really grabs the eye. (SM) 9

BATMAN: TALES OF THE DEMON (Trade paperback; various) A collection of reprinted-to-death encounters between Batman and Ra's Al Ghul that still makes for an entertaining and worthwhile package. (PCP) 8

BOOKS OF MAGIC 3 (of 4) <+ -> (Gaiman & Vess) An absolutely charming and delightful tale, magnificently illustrated by Vess. The best segment thus far in exceptional series. (SM) 10

<++> And about time too. I refer not to the wait for Charles Vess' artwork so much as to that for Neil Gaiman to produce a story as opposed to an exercise in writing.

In this book Dr Occult visits fairyland with Timothy Hunter, perhaps the world's most pubescent-looking twelve year old. I'll manfully resist all temptation to make some trite homophobic joke and will instead say that this is probably the month's most satisfying read and that Vess renders an elfin landscape enchanting enough to give Barry Windsor-Smith a run for his money. (JM) 8

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CAPTAIN ATOM 52 <- -> (Raspler & Adams + Tanghal) It seems nobody told Cap that he was the director of a top secret government agency (well, it was classified information, after all). His discovery of this fact leads him into conflict with an Earth-stranded Dominator manufacturing drugs for a crime syndicate. One or two good touches but otherwise unconvincing. (PCP) 3

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN 3 <+> (Loeb & Sale) The surviving Challs go their separate ways and Corinna Stark marks her return in one of the tackiest cases of plagiarism possible. (PCP) 6

DEMON 11 <-> (Grant & Semeiks + Rodier) Klarion enlists creepoids for his gang. Nothing to get excited about. (PCP) 4

DETECTIVE 628 <- -> (Wolfman & Aparo + DeCarlo) Abattoir goes on another killing spree in mundane actioner. Penguin cameo. (PCP) 3

DOOM PATROL 43 <++> (Morrison & Yeowell) Steve Yeowell's guest artist spot this issue sits well with the usual whimsy as Morrison rolls on with more "Alice in Wonderland on LSD" stuff beneath The Pentagon. Now that the title's settled into its own niche somewhere behind one of those Twin Peaks, methinks it's only a matter of time until Morrison reveals he's actually the mad offspring of a forgotten David Lynch rumination and that it's in fact the Men From N.O.W.H.E.R.E. who offed that Palmer girl.

You'd love to hate it but you love it. Go on, admit it. (JC) 8

DRAGONLANCE 30 <- +> (Blaustein & Randall + Elliot) A step back into the past as 16-year-old Riva Silvercrown sets out to prove she is worthy of becoming a Knight. Taut scripting from Blaustein; exquisite visuals from Randall and Elliot under a stunning Mike Kaluta cover. Could be a hot series if all issues were like this. (PCP) 8

DR FATE 26 <++> (Messner-Loebs & Giarrano + Gross) Deranged grief-stricken ex-Star labs employee causes minor hassle for Inza Nelson as she comes to terms with her powers as the new Doctor. Solid entertainment. (PCP) 8

FLASH 49 <++> (Messner-Loebs & Larocque + Marzan) The title gets a much-needed kick in the pants resulting in a death duel between Flash and Vandal Savage. Flash is killed - or is he? Tune in next month. One of those rare occasions when a month between issues is going to feel like a long time. (PCP) 8

GREATEST FLASH STORIES EVER TOLD Hardcover (Various) Nice collection which unfortunately concentrates too much on the Barry Allen era. Apart from that a worthy addition to the series. (PCP) 8

GREEN ARROW 44 <++> (Grell & Hoberg) Variable comic on the upswing as Ollie gets involved with a Welsh artist fighting to save his land from greedy developers. Grell uses a minimum of words here, and to his and Hoberg's credit, the silent panels often say the most. (SM) 9

<-> Average pot-boiler in which Ollie offers his services to a Welsh family whose valley is under threat from a property developer. (PCP) 4

GREEN ARROW 45 <- -> (Grell & Hoberg + Nyberg) A Welshman with an English accent and a Scot partial to singing Irish songs makes for pure and unadulterated drivel. (PCP) 0

GREEN LANTERN 11 <+ -> (G Jones & Staton + Patterson) Banal and madcap episode in which a troupe of space-faring clowns claim to be the true Guardians of the Universe. (PCP) 2

GREEN LANTERN 12 <++> (G Jones & Staton + Marcos) G'Nort & Guy take on the Qwardians in the best super-hero traditions in above par actioner. (PCP) 8

GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN II 1 (Giffen + G Jones & Bright + Tanghal) Hal in jail, a pre-GL Guy Gardner, a young Katma Tui, and Sinestro. Not much more than that in a revised history piece of minor interest that pales against the original Broome/Kane concepts. (PCP) 4

GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN II 2 <+ -> (Giffen + G Jones & Bright) Continuing Hal Jordan's revamped origin, featuring Sinestro in his pre-villain days and various cosmic races. Mark Bright's pencils bear touches of Adams and Aparo, while Keith Giffen continues to prove he is one of DC's best writers. If only the regular series were this good... (AW) 8

HAWK & DOVE 23 <- -> (Kesel & Guler + Hanna) Computer-speak villains create headache for Hawk & Dove. The readership suffers as well. Pass it by. (PCP) 0

HAWKWORLD 11 <++> (Ostrander & Nolan + Kwapisz) Toxin carrying jet is menaced by Killer Shark, and Weng Chan (from Blackhawk) calls in Katar Hol for assistance in routine adventure. (PCP) 7

HELLBLAZER 40 <-> (Delano & McKean) Double-sized conclusion to the "Constantine-Twin" storyline that goes nowhere and seemingly ends mid-stream. Typical dark and moody McKean visuals but neither they nor the script can stop the mind from wandering. (PCP) 2

<-> The first dozen or so issues of this title were fabulous, peaking with the truly creepy Newcastle/origin issues. After that, it began to lose its way. The Fear Machine multi-parter that followed ran out of steam early on, and dragged on for much too long; the comic never really recovered, as Delano seemed to lose his grip on his original conception of Constantine's world and character. The stories became dull, wordy and esoteric, and this issue is almost inconceivably bad. (One hopes that Delano's acid trips aren't as boring and cliched as Constantine's are). It's just as well, then that Delano is leaving the title, and the good news is that new writer Garth Ennis' storyline and Will Simpson's art look very promising indeed - it's been a long time since Hellblazer's had a good regular artist, too. If any reason can be found to buy this dismal, dreadful issue, then it's for Dave McKean's magnificent art. He's been criticised at times for copping Sienkiewicz's style, but the truth is that he's long since come into his own, and his work here (including his colouring) is simply extraordinary. (SM) 6

HELLBLAZER 41 <+++> (Ennis & Simpson + Pennington) Hellblazer is at last worth reading again. Gone is Jamie Delano's political soap-box posturing in favour of Garth Ennis' refreshed slant on John Constantine's desperately morbid character as he discovers he now has terminal lung cancer. Gripping - and not a bloodthirsty demon in sight! Artistic maestro Will Simpson pushes the shady view of reality once characteristic of this book back up on a par with the John Ridgeway days - let's hope it stays that way, at least for the duration of this storyline. (JC) 9

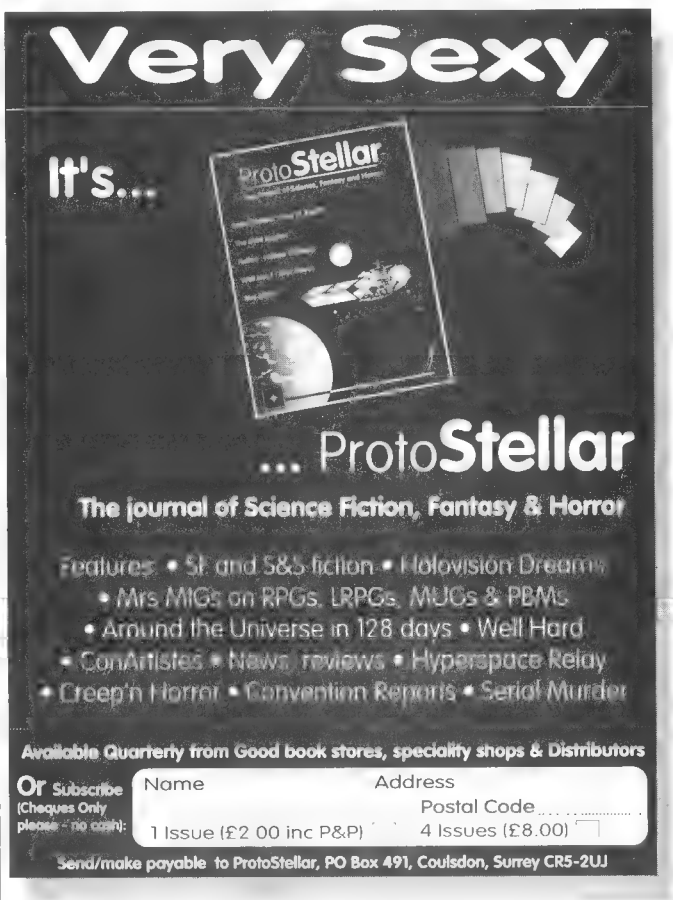
<- +> Lots of soul-searching and self-pity when Constantine discovers that he has cancer of the terminal kind. The new team shows promise even though the doom and gloom remains. (PCP) 4

<+> I was intrigued, having never really read an issue of Constantine's adventures, but seeing the lung cancer hype storyline introducing a new artistic crew, I thought, I'll smoke, I'll read it! I really enjoyed this issue, perhaps someone will tell me how it finishes, I'll be damned if I'm going to finish it. Pass me the ashtray. (PH) 7

<++> New creative team passes muster as Constantine learns he's got terminal cancer. On the negative side, however, Simpson's pencils are somewhat inconsistent, and Tom Ziuko's minimal use of colour is more annoying than atmospheric. Even so, their first attempt is miles better than recent issues have been, with the added bonus of a powerful cover by Tom Canty. (SM) 8

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA 50 <+ -> (Giffen & DeMatteis + Medley + Beatty) General Glory clears his name in who-cares double-sized issue, backed up by quietly humorous but visually appalling guest-piece (Kyle Baker) that should not have passed the editor's desk. (PCP) 1

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA 1 (of 8; Strazewski & Burchett) Passable if unoriginal yarn (set in the '50s) featuring the original versions of Flash and Starman. Strazewski is a strange and weak choice for the series' scripter given the luminaries that have gone before and which in part contributes to the shortcomings of the plot. (PCP) 6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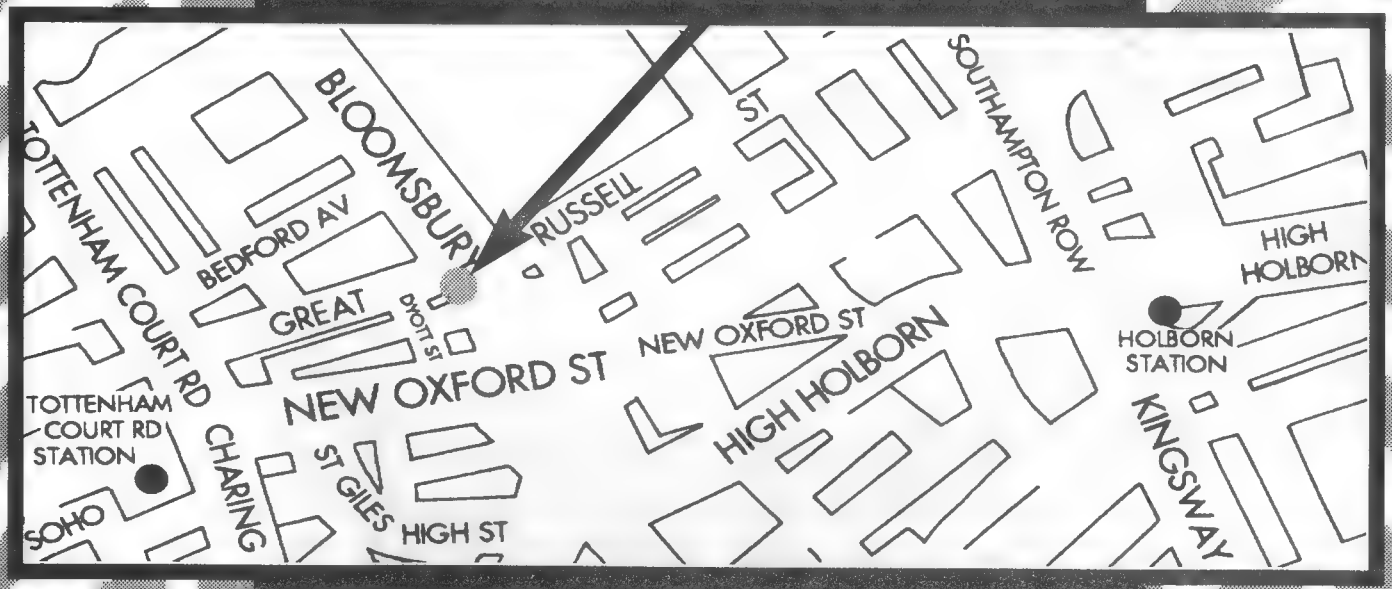

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JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA 2 <- -> (Strazewski & Miehm) The '50s Black Canary takes up the mantle in mediocre book-length slugfest with Solomon Grundy and dialogue that curls up and dies from age. (PCP) 3

<+++> This mini-series is excellent and capturing the real feel of the JSA, this time we have the Black Canary battling it out with Solomon Grundy. Let's hope that DC sees the potential here and makes it an unlimited series. (PHB) 9

KID ETERNITY 1 (of 3; Morrison & Fegredo) Several years ago, DC took two previously unconnected super-heroes (published respectively by Fawcett & Quality) and concocted a fascinating series of stories based on the premise that they were actually brothers. The two heroes were Captain Marvel Jr and Kid Eternity. It was an event that went largely unheralded but was of some importance in the history of comics. Also, those stories (presented in World's Finest) no longer form part of current DC continuity thus paving the way for a revised Kid Eternity in a high-priced prestige format mini-series. His origin remains largely true to the original but the revamp suffers from the bane of so-called mature comics - painted artwork and one-word sentences - neither of which carry a story. It's the usual hotch-potch of trying to figure out who's who, who's doing what, and who's spouting the dialogue, further hindered by the passe cross-cutting from one unconnected event to another. It should sell - the collected album won't be far away - but if you remember the original Kid Eternity with fondness this series is not for you. It really does beg the question of just how many more legends DC are going to pervert. (PCP) 2

Although he can't resist throwing in the odd "qliphothic presence" or two, this "Here Comes Mr Jordan" type tale is nevertheless more accessible than Morrison's usual output, if still a bit vague at times. Fegredo's art is nice enough, but too derivative of Messrs Sienkiewicz and McKean for my liking. Overall, the kind of thing that has to develop further before judgement can be passed. (SM) 7

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES 18 <++ -> (Giffen & Bierbaums + Peterson) Exciting tale as Valor (the former Monsel) and Shadow Lass fight the Dark Circle on Duo Damsel's home world of Carggg. Everything gets sorted out too quickly, but at least we get to see a few legionnaires do their thing. (PHB) 6

L.E.G.I.O.N. 91 <+ - -> (Grant & Kitson) A "get to know a bit more about" story, nothing much happens, but the insights are quite interesting. The art is crisp, and we're set up for the next issue which will reveal all we wanted to know about Stealth, but were afraid to ask. (PHB) 6

MISTER MIRACLE 27 <- -> (Moench & Phillips + Dvorak) Giant Noodle seeks planetwide conquest. JLA in a story that can't make up its mind whether to be silly or serious. (PCP) 1

MS TREE QUARTERLY 4 (Collins & Beatty) Corporate businessman tricks Ms Tree into killing his wife with obvious results; while in the back-up, Midnight (Gorman & Burchett) rescues a mother and child from gangland hitmen. A winter blues issue? (PCP) 5

<+ -> Throughout its long history Ms Tree's always provided a good read, and this issue's no exception. If it's a tad predictable, it's still a highly enjoyable tale as the normally tense Ms Tree tries (unsuccessfully, as it turns out) to relax and let her hair down a bit. My only real qualm is the steep $3.95 price tag, which won't exactly encourage new readers to try the book. (SM) 9

THE NAZZ 3 (of 4) <+ -> (T Veitch & Talbot) This four-parter gets better with each issue. Veitch does a good job in balancing ordinary super-hero fare with the Nazz's more spiritual concerns, while Talbot, meanwhile, though never a favourite, has loosened up considerably here, and this is easily his best work. (SM) 9

NEW TEEN TITANS 75 <++> (Wolfman & Grummet + Vey) Unmasking of the Wildebeeste leader is guaranteed to surprise even the most jaded reader with Wolfman constructing a classic mystery/action yarn. (PCP) 8

<+ -> Fairly exciting issue, with "Dark Jericho" leading the ubiquitous Wildebeestes against his former team-mates, but can't Wolfman come up with some new nemeses for the Titans? (SM) 7

<+ -> The "shake-up" continues (old characters dying, new characters suddenly appearing). The deaths of Golden Eagle and Danny Chase haven't exactly been blows to Titans fans - who dies at this story's end, I wonder? Nightwing and Terminator face apparent betrayal by Jericho - don't worry guys - he's only been brainwashed. (AA) 7

QUESTION QUARTERLY 2 (O'Neil & Cowan) Vic Sage returns to Hub City with dying daughter of Myra Fermin. Overlong and rather pointless. (PCP) 4

ROBIN 5 <-> (Dixon & Lyle + Smith) Robin defeats King Snake and returns to Batman's bosom supposedly hardened by his experiences in what has been at best a pedestrian series. Dynamite Bolland cover. (PCP) 2

SANDMAN 21 <++> (Gaiman &

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Dringenberg) Ahh. Right. At last a Neil Gaiman storyline with the hint of something you could get your teeth into. I must say that this title has hitherto had an appropriately soporific effect on me, but clearly a Gaiman multi-parter is in the offing so the doyens of the various metaphysical realms (and fandom assembled, presumably) are stirring. As usual the pace is that of a continental drift, but the issue serves to whet the appetite for what's to come.

Mike Dringenberg and Malcolm Jones III's art is so satisfying that I scarcely relish Kelly Jones' much trumpeted debut next issue, and Dave McKeever's cover (I presume) is predictably ravishing. (JM) 7

SANDMAN 23 & 24 <-> (Neil Gaiman & Kelly Jones) In which Neil of Gaiman, Prince of the Rambling Plot and Lord of the Stilted Dialogue stumbles aimlessly through the realm of the Multi-Parter; and the Intellectuals looked on what he had wrought and fell to their knees, saying "Truly this is the Son of Moore!" And they placed at his feet an Eagle in honour of his greatness, and verily...

Wake me up when it's over. (JM) 5

SANDMAN 25 <-> (Gaiman & Wagner + Jones III) Boarding school pupil left alone during holiday period is abused by former pupils exiled from Hell. Horror at its best. (PCP) 8

SANDMAN 26 <-> (Gaiman & K Jones) In which yet another episode of the dull, drawn out and uneventful "The Seasons of Mists" storyline crawls by - this despite the intriguing concept. The problem with these long multi-parters is that, like 'em or loathe 'em, you're stuck with 'em for the duration. (I would imagine that the brass at DC encourages this sort of thing in the belief that readers might be less prone to drop a title in the middle of the extended storyline.) Even the peerless Kelly Jones can't relieve the tedium. A comic that's starting to flounder. (SM) 6

<+++> One wonders why people sing the praises of Moore, Milligan and Morrison, when this quiet genius has brought us probably the finest comic DC has created in many years. The current "Seasons of Mist" storyline had only been marred by the nasty little Matt Wagner illustrated fill-in last issue, and we're back with a bang this time. The story is hotting up, who will get the key to Hell? Will Morph be reunited with Nada? Is Marvel squirming uncomfortably over Gaiman's wonderfully outrageous rendition of Thor? Absolutely waltziful. (PH) 10

SGT ROCK SPECIAL 12 (Kanigher & Kubert) a Sgt Rock book-lengther coupled with the story of a Gorilla Marine are the treats available in this double-sized and now monthly reprint. (PCP) 8

SHADE 10 <+ -> (Milligan & Jaaska) Funny yet pointed reworking of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers". Inker Pennington brings Jaaska's art up to standard, but I fear Bachalo is all but irreplacable. (SM) 8

SHADE 11 <+> (Milligan & Bachalo) One of the comics I now look forward to most. At his best, Milligan delivers an absorbing, highly enjoyable and imaginative tale, with strong, likeable characters, while Chris Bachalo's unique and pristine pencils place him in a class of his own - he certainly gets my vote as DC's top regular penciller, and his work is far, far superior to the trendy, overhyped artists getting all the glory these days. Kudos too to colourist Dan Vozzo, who, with stablemate Steve Oliffe, is elevating the craft to new heights. Shade might not be for everyone, but the best things often aren't. A modern classic. (SM) 10

THE SHADOW STRIKES 16-18 <+ -> (Jones & Wingham + Fernandez + Badger) The first two issues are a two-part story telling the tale of the Shadow's search for a murderer who uses female swimmers to do his dirty deeds, and is a thoroughly entertaining read. The current issue, with art by Mark Badger, weaves the history of the time (the building of the Lincoln Tunnel) into a story of union-bashers who won't stop at murder. I hope Badger's art will be the draw to lure non-readers into sampling the excellent stories by Gerard Jones in one of the best crime books I've read. (LC) 7

THE SHADOW STRIKES 18 <+ -> (G Jones & Badger) The Shadow investigates the murder of Shrevvy's brother. Not bad, but Badger's '90s art style does not suit the period setting. (PCP) 5

STARMAN 33 <- -> (Strazewski & Hoover + Nyberg) Starman finally sees the light and the bad guys get their come-uppance. Pity it had to take four issues. (PCP) 2

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION 18 <- -> (D Stern &O'Brien + Manley + Campanella) The Enterprise receives a visitor from the future aiming to change an event in the ship's recent past. Mildly interesting but marred by inadequate and static art. (PCP) 3

SUICIDE SQUAD 52 <+ -> (Ostrander & Yale + Fern + Campanellla) Doctor Light returns from Hell in lightweight and - for this title - absurd tongue-in-cheek narrative. Fine for JLA but not here. (PCP) 3

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SUPERBOY 13 <+ -> (Peyer & Cullins + Templeton) After a recent rise in quality a yawn-inducing throwback involving Mr Mxyzlptlk. (PCP) 2

SUPERBOY 14 <++> (Peyer & Swan) Supernatural biker Brimstone seeks to save Superboy from menace of a demon-child in off-beat tale that sadly cannot be considered part of the new Superboy continuity. (PCP) 8

SUPERBOY 15 <++> (J Moore & Swan + DeMulder) Dragged into the future of the alternate Legion of Super-Heroes by a time traveller known only as Dancer, Clark's attempts to save the Universe from temporal disturbances go awry as he suddenly finds himself back in the Metropolis and an encounter with - Superman. To be continued. Another fine series entry based on the TV Boy of Steel. (PCP) 8

SUPERMAN 54 <++> (Ordway & Janke) Phase 4 of "Time and Time Again" sees Superman fighting Mr Z for the second and first time, while the Newsboy Legion solo star in a battle with a Hulk-like Olsen clone (Kesel) that is nothing more than a page-filler. (PCP) 6

<+ -> It's nice to see one of these extended cross-overs that really works. This one has pace, suspense, and excitement (everything that Marvel's current multi-part **Wolverine** saga so blatantly lacks). Janke is the perfect inker for Ordway, and his work never looked so good. (SM) 9

SUPERMAN 55 <++> (Ordway) Superman winds up in Camelot precipitating the co-joining of Etrigan & Jason Blood. Merlin, Mordred & Morgaine Le Fey are also on hand - as usual. Another Newsboy Legion back-up (Kesel) of little worth rounds out the issue. (PCP) 7

TWILIGHT 1 (of 3; Chaykin & Garcia-Lopez) In pre-Crisis days, Star Hawkins (with robot secretary Ilda) poked fun at private eyes. Tommy Tomorrow and the Planeteers played interplanetary cops and robbers. **Manhunter 2070** (in a short Showcase run) transferred the western county hunter theme to the stars. And the Star Rovers engaged in friendly competition investigates strange mysteries on other worlds. That was then. This is now - and Chaykin once again brings his perverted and cynical view of the future (and mankind in general to turn those classic DC space-opera heroes into foul-mouthed, sex-crazed tyrants and egoists with no redeeming qualities whatsoever. The penchant for rubbishing long-time DC characters - and with it, extensive archival material - that turns potentially good character revivals into sick psychopaths is becoming both nauseating and tiresome. Is this really what today's readers want, or is it simply a case of today's creators pandering to their own perverse fantasies? Nice visuals from Garcia-Lopez do not disguise crude and childish claptrap. (PCP) 5

Old science fiction characters are brought back from Limbo and turned into gods. Why? If this first third of the story is anything to go by, this prestige format 3-book series is a waste of time. Nice art, though. (AA) 2

WONDER WOMAN 54 <++> (Perez & Thompson + Tanghal) A not-what-it-seems battle between Diana & Hermes is the backdrop for introducing the new Dr Psycho. (PCP) 7

MARVEL COMICS

ALPHA FLIGHT 95 <++> (Nicieza & Bair) The last time I read this title, it was wandering aimlessly off in several directions. By narrowing its scope, Nicieza succeeds in tightening things up considerably, and the segment with Aurora here is particularly effective. There are still about three times as many Alphas and Betas as are necessary, though, and it'd be nice to see some of them go. (SM) 8

AVENGERS 331 <+ -> (Hama & Ryan + Palmer) All right action yarn. Tom Palmer's finishes make Ryan's pencils more palatable, though Hama's done much better. (SM) 7

AVENGERS WEST COAST 71 <-> (Thomas & Ross + Morgan) Formulaic plotting from Roy Thomas and mediocre artwork futher evidence of the decline of this book. Hawkeye and Spider-Woman deal with Sunfire and Pele, aided by Namor. The Avengers should have presence - this is barely sentient. (AW) 2

BLACK PANTHER: PANTHER'S PREY 1 (of 4; McGregor & Turner) Great pencils and colour embellish the best Panther tale yet from long-term Panther writer Don McGregor - prehistoric beasts, drugs, African jungle and high technology, all wrapped up in a classic mystery. McGregor's forte is internal drama amid external exoticism: we get inside the heads of all the dramatis personae in this jungle soap opera. No stock "Look, B'wana!" stuff here, just good solid drama. (AW) 8

CONAN 243 <+> (Thomas & Hartle) Roy Thomas has definitely improved this comic, but thus far he's merely revamping old plots and characters. Hopefully he'll move on once he settles back into the writer's chair - he remains the best writer by far that this title's ever seen. And even Gary Hartle's showing signs of improvement. (SM) 7

DAREDEVIL 291 <+++> (Nocenti & Weeks + Fredericks) Anne Nocenti has done a great deal for **Daredevil**, not least the human elements that pervade her sketches of daily life in Hell's-Kitchen; a major aspect of the comic's character and continued success.

This issue Bullet returns, and J-J-J and Ben Urich stand up for human rights. Plus an excellent epilogue where with a home-coming there is reconciliation between Matt and Foggy. (DK) 8

DAREDEVIL 292 <-> (Chichester & Weeks + Fredericks) Beginning a two-parter by new writer Dan Chichester, we have appearances by Foggy, Kingpin, Typhoid Mary, Tankmaster, Tombstone and Colonel Strang who resembles more an old character from **Strange Tales** than a new investor of Fisk Media Enterprises.

Oh yes, the Punisher (say no more) guest-stars, too. (DK) 7

DAREDEVIL ANNUAL 7 (various) First part of the Von Strucker Gambit story spread across assorted Marvel annuals, Von Strucker being the revived long dead head of SHIELD's evil counterpart, Hydra. Plus points: regular SHIELD artist Jackson Guice's pencils on the prologue, Hydra, and Nick Fury's flying car. Minus points: everything else - hackneyed plots, stereotyped characters, lousy art. Dull, dull, dull. (AW) 3

DEATHLOK SPECIAL 1 (of 4; McDuffie & Wright with Guice & Williams) Repackaged on whiter stock this reprint of last year's poorly printed (and over-priced) "prestige" comic seems to improve at half the price.

Intrigued, I read this rehash of (a prototype for **Rogue Trooper**) **Deathlok the Demolisher** whose most obvious antecedent must be Philip K Dick's "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?"

Sadly, this comic is just a poor emulation of Rutger Hauer's performance in "Blade Runner". (DK) 5

FANTASTIC FOUR 350 <-> (Walt Simonson) This one has it all! Readers and the Dow Jones Index alike will be sorry to see Arthur Adams' all too brief stint over, but Walt Simonson as we know is no slouch in the art department.

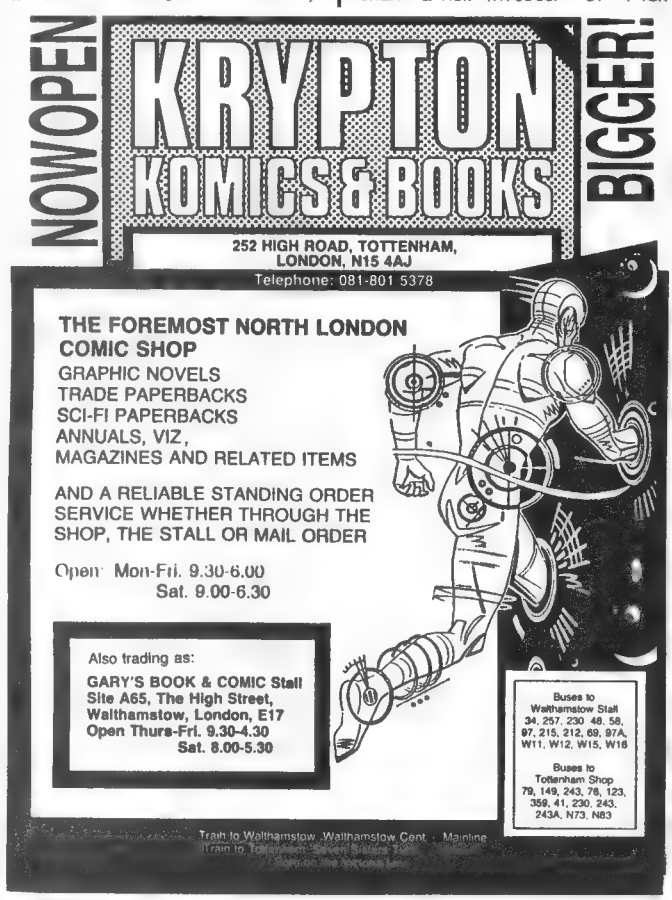
Great to see Doc Doom in it and it looks as if Ben Grimm might be the Thing again - and Doc Doom is setting up traps for them all - just like the old days. Go and buy one, because it's a giant-sized issue and won't be distributed. (JM) 7

FANTASTIC FOUR 351 <- -> (Kaminski & Bagley) Inventory piece about two cosmic beings conducting an experiment involving the FF behaving out of character. Even allowing for that, our heroes behave out of all recognition - in the wrong ways. Neat idea but the editor should have told the writer to try harder. So-so artwork. (AW) 2

FANTASTIC FOUR 352 <- + +> (Simonson) Reed Richard and Doctor doom hop back and forth in time in an experiment so confusing it needs a note on the letters page to explain how to follow it! Simonson does the FF better than anyone else since Byrne but he seems to have gone overboard with time travel lately. Still, make the most of it - he's off to DC very shortly. (AW) 6

FOOLKILLER 6 AND 7 (of 10) <+ -> (Gerber & Birch + Giarrano) Gerber does a fine job in bringing home just how overwhelming, oppressive, vicious and uncaring a city New York can be and I, for one, am rooting for his philosophical Foolkiller (though I fear he won't survive intact). (SM) 10

GHOST RIDER 13 <-> (Mackie & Texiera) Don't be fooled by Texiera's attractive cover -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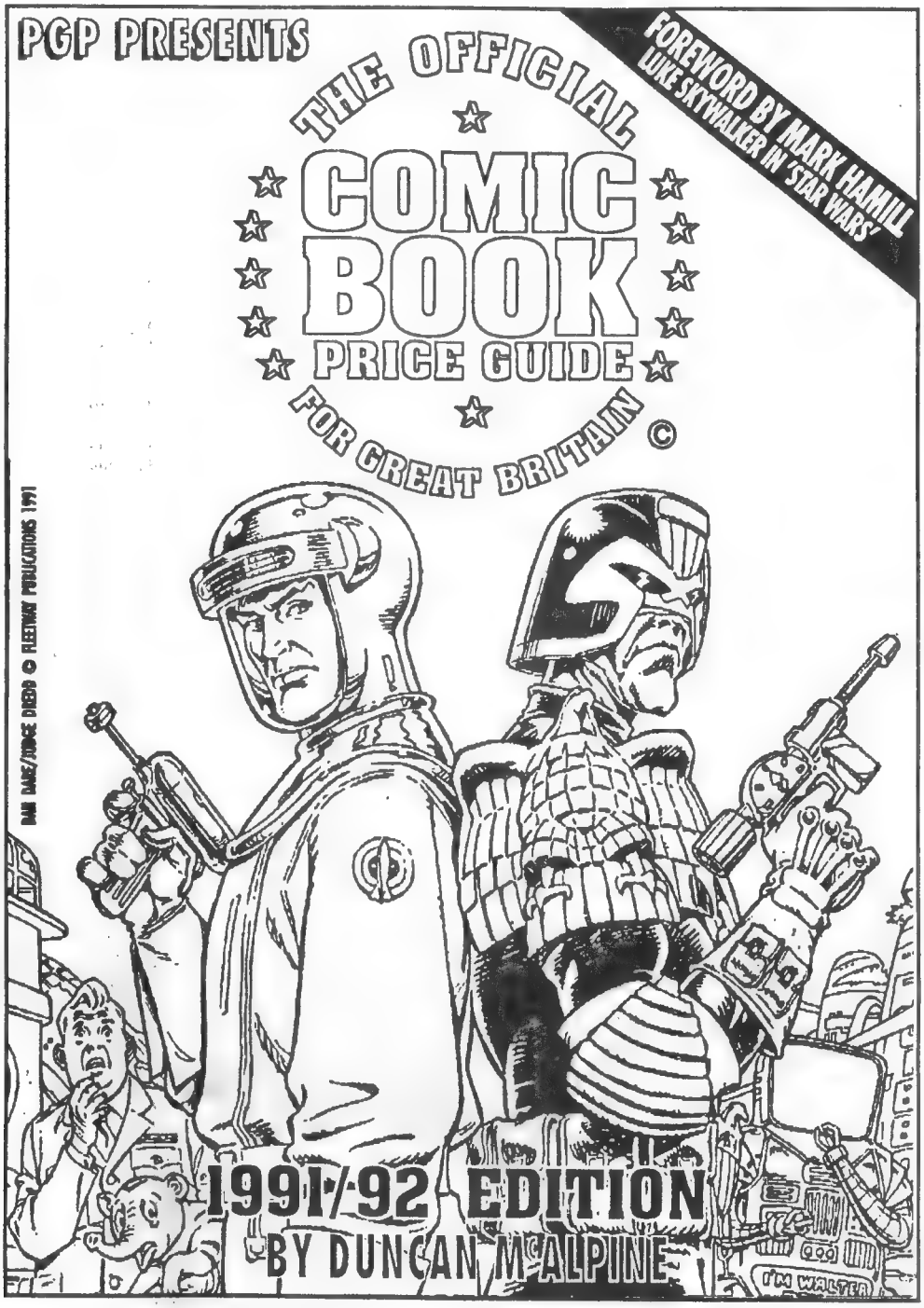

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his interior pencils are nowhere near as good. Similarly, writer Mackie merely recycles the same standard plot that makes the rounds of Marvel's lesser books these days. (SM) 3

GROO THE WANDERER 75 <+> (Aragones & Evanier) "The Sceptre of King Cetro"; part 3. With Queen Grooella retaining her head by the skin of King Groo's teeth, who later (inspired by promises of a fray) readies his army to rescue Rufferto from the royal slavery that Taranto sells him back into; there must be a moral somewhere. (DK) 10

GROO THE WANDERER 76 <+> (Aragones & Evanier) A shipwreck in the middle of the desert? For the price of a meal the sage and his dog explain all the tale entitled "The Mines of Mirian". A comic I will always admire for its frivolity and unpretentiousness. (DK) 10

HULK 380 <+> (David & Jaaska) Powerful, anxious, and superbly crafted death row thriller showcasing Doc Samson, with but one panel appearance by the Hulk. David's on a real roll - even his fill-ins are brilliant! (SM) 10

IRON MAN 268 <+ -> (Byrne & Ryan) Buy this to see how a pro tackles a hackneyed theme and breathes fresh life into it - writer Byrne expands Iron Man's origin and links it with his current trapped-in-his-armour predicament. Avengers penciller Paul Ryan replaces John Romita Jr. (AW) 7

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 74 <+> (Barry Windsor-Smith and others) In this third segment, the much-heralded Weapon-X saga finally begins to pick up steam, though it still doesn't work well in this format.(SM)7

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 76 (various) Barry Windsor-Smith's Weapon X is indeed getting progressively better, but whatever bigwig at Marvel decided upon this appalling format for so significant a storyline as the long-awaited origin of Wolverine ought to be demoted to their Barbie line for life. It just does not - cannot - will not work in these small, bi-monthly bursts. Best to save your money for the inevitable trade paperback. (SM) 6

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 77 <-> (various) Marvel's anthology title, showcasing Wolverine and three other characters in four unrelated stories. For once the Wolverine yarn is a classic: chapter five of his multi-part origin by Barry Windsor-Smith. Typical Smith storytelling although for once his inks seem less delicate than usual, giving a cruder feel to the art. Look for the reprint in book form next year. The second story is also far superior to the norm - the final instalment of Paul Gulacy's Shanna adventure. The other two peices are forgettable fluff featuring Sgt Fury and Dracula (!) in one, and Namor in the other. (AW) 6

NEW MUTANTS 100 <-> (Liefeld & Nicieza) Final issue, and good riddance to bad rubbish. Newer comic fans might find it hard to believe that this was once an excellent comic, with tight, imaginative storylines, and strong, interesting characters. It was here, too, that Bill Sienkiewicz was first given the opportunity to expand and develop his unique style. But that was a long time ago, and the title has long since become yet another sterile and homogenised Marvel mutant book, with the same bland characters and recycled plots as all the other X-books. This issue is typically stupid, cliched, an inane, and judging by the "bonus" prologue, X-Force - this title's new mutation - looks to be more of the same. (SM)2

NEW WARRIORS 10 <+ -> (Nicieza & Bagley) The group of teenage superheroes fight the White Queen and her Hellions. Nicieza's good grasp of characterisation continues to satisfy. (AA) 8

NEW WARRIORS 11 <+> (Nicieza & Bagley + Mahlstedt) This is too early for a "what if" type story. With "Days of Future Past" it was a fundamental part of the Claremont/Byrne era, but sadly none has ever lived up to it, and this current storyline, albeit unexplained, has happened far too soon in this still growing comic. The story concerns an alternative Earth where ancient Egypt is the dominating influence and power. Only Nova seems ill at ease with the situation, and only Marvel Boy and Firestar are featured Warriors to boot, I feel it's probably Nicieza's ambition to emulate all of his hero's writing feats. John Byrne is obviously a strong influence, what with this, and this year's resurrection of Proteus. He's even revamping Captain America. (PH) 6

THE NEW WARRIORS 12 <- -> (Nicieza & Bagley) Another Marvel alternative reality saga, "Forever Yesterday", which is frankly where the plot belongs. Disappointing to say the least, with most of the dialogue painfully bland and explanatory. Why does Wolverine's 3-page appearance inside warrant such a large presence on the cover (asking the obvious)? There are also other versions of many other superheroes - who cares? I hope for better next issue, but something tells me the book won't be up to par until this storyline is over. (AA) 3

SPIDER-MAN 8 <-> (McFarlane) If the adjectiveless Spider-Man (TM) doesn't typify comics as a whole for the industry's most popular and consequently most indulgent period, then it certainly exemplifies Marvel (R) Comics.

If readers are buying for its investment value, their discernment is clearly irrelevant, but if this comic's popularity is due to something deeper, then it well demonstrates the sorry state of comics in the early nineties. Why McFarlane should want to name his latest story "Perceptions", along the lines of a Des O'Connor album, points to his anxiety to justify his newly-acquired position of writer, and is sadly unconvincing. On a literary level it doesn't get any better inside, in fact the dialogue is that of Claremont at his very worst.

So, no story, gorgeous art. And just in case the stories about investment potential seem to be waning, the promise of a razor-knuckled mutant (c) next issue.

I'll take fifty. (JM) 5

SPIDER-MAN 8 & 9 <+> (McFarlane) Marvel-sponsored on the job training - McFarlane's learning how to write a good comic as he goes along, and while his narrative remains heavy-handed and somewhat forced, this is a nonetheless strong and effective tale. Wolverine's making more appearances than Ronald McDonald these days, though he's not always used as well as he is here. (SM) 9

THOR 432 <- - -> (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) This is toooo corny to be believed. I've doubted the sincerity of this mag for some time, but this absolutely dreadful "Death of Loki, Vengeance of Odin" story has probably signed the death warrant for this once-proud comic. Not even the death scene was done well enough to warrant anything other than, "well, we can easily bring these guys back should all else fail" And this "new" Thor, well, I'd get out to them comic shops, and start putting copies back on the shelf in protest. (PH) 0

<-> Anniversary issue which reprints his origin story and gives us the "death" of a major character. The trouble with an ancient series like Thor is that it requires periodic reinvention. Walt Simonson managed to reinvigorate the strip but the DeFalco-Frenz version constantly invites comparison with its forebears, reminding us how often we have been here before (Name That Issue time: Odin is asleep, his sons are disobedient so he decides to punish Thor...) Even the art is getting stale these days. Ho-hum. (AW) 4

WOLVERINE 39 <+ -> (Hama & Silvestri) Curiously affecting tale of androids with emotions, and who better to draw it than the superb Marc Silvestri? (SM) 8

X-FACTOR 66 <+++> (Lee + Portacio + Claremont & Portacio + Thibert) Whilst many people find Chris Claremont to be the premiere bamboozler of plots and prose, his new plotting team seems to be content to throw yet another future tense spanner in the works. Compared to the superfluous Extinction Agenda saga which could have been better sorted out in three issues, this is high class stuff. Claremont is a gifted scripter when working with someone else; just look at his X-Men with Byrne. This team has more going for it than the X-Men has had for years. Portacio and Thibert are

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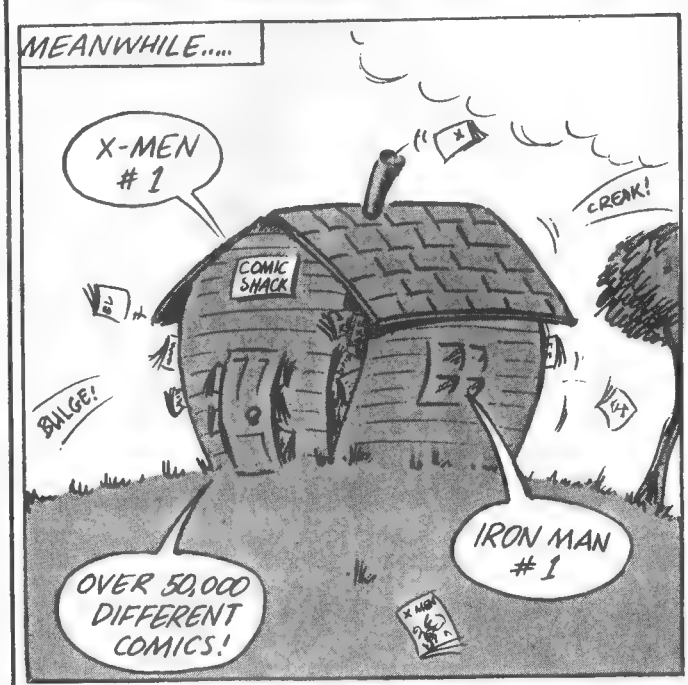

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arguably a better team than Lee and Williams, and they make this comic a must, but I wish Marvel would stop using the future as an aid to sort out present messes. (PH) 8

<++> X-Factors' ship goes wild, leaving the mutants to fight for their lives, from the inside! The art is beautiful, and now that Claremont is being guided by other influences we can actually understand what's going on. (PHB) 6

<++> Claremont & Portacio masterfully destroy Ship, one of the silliest X-Factor characters. Definitely improved, but what happens when Claremont and Portacio move on? (AA) 9

X-MEN 276 <+ -> (Claremont & Lee) Beyond a doubt, the time has come to give Mr Claremont a pat on the back, and send him out to graze with Stan Lee. This comic really hasn't been much good since co-creator John Byrne left some ten years ago, and if this issue's better than some, it still falls far short of its own standard. It's a shame too to see so stylish an artist as Jim Lee wasted on this sort of mush and drivel. (SM) 6

<++> "X-Men in space" saga continues. Superb art from Jim Lee, and we finally get to see the real Professor X. The book finally seems to have a renewed sense of direction. Long may it last! (AA) 10

US INDEPENDENTS

ARMOR 7 & 8 <-> (Continuity; various) The art and story in both these issues are pretty good; the art in particular is better than in most mainstream comics although the colouring is a little muddy at times. The problem here is that the long-running serial which has been building to a climax is totally ignored in issue 8, for a completely different story: I suspect the reason is that Neal Adams himself was supposed to pencil the final battle between Armor and Rage, but as usual HE MISSED THE DEADLINE! Given the erratic schedule of Continuity's books anyway, God knows when we'll see that story. I feel cheated. (LC) 5

BUZZ 2 <+ -> (Kitchen Sink; Editor: Mark Landman) Another outstanding collection of bizarre and imaginative strips. Charles Burns' typically weird Marvel send-up is my favourite here, followed closely by Landman's own Dobie Zombie: America's Favourite Dead Teenager. Also outstanding are the contributions by Jim Woodring and Garret Izumi, and the usual funny, poignant stuff from the ever-brilliant Drew Friedman. Comics at their most creative. (SM) 10

CANNON 1 (Eros; Wood) A reprinting of Wally Wood's soldier-of-fortune series that has mucho nudity and action. Quite tame by today's standards but a treat all the same for Woody's fans. (PCP) 6

DIRTY PLOTTE 2 (Drawn & Quarterly; Julie Doucet) From the pages of RAW, Weirdo, DRAWN & QUARTERLY and (undoubtedly) many others comes French Canadian Julie Doucet in her own magazine. featuring black and white strips and new work, the best of which is the humorous "whodunit" short - "At Night When I Go to Bed". Support Julie's work by ordering this comic book now. (DK) 9

DRAWN & QUARTERLY 4 <+9> (Drawn & Quarterly; various) Collected comic strips in a similar vein to RAW, with work by Chester Brown, Seth, Carol Swain, Julie Doucet, Joe Matt, Bernie Mireault and Mary Fleener (to mention but a few).

It truly is a sin that comics like this should be struggling to survive. Worse still, when the industry is monopolised by super-heroes, (un)funny animals, titillation and "blood 'n' guts".

There is so much within DRAWN & QUARTERLY of real value which deserves a wider audience. (DK) 10

EIGHTBALL 5 <+> (Fantagraphics; Daniel Clowes) A triennial anthology of surreal b&w and colour stories satirizing popular culture and everyday social behaviour by way of continued and one-off strips for the truly discerning comic book buff.

Why does this book always remind me of The Gary Shandling Show? (DK) 9

HARD BOILED 1-3 (Dark Horse; Miller & Darrow) Contrary to the comments of others not so impressed by this magazine I find its self-indulgence very entertaining.

Excellently packaged in the European tradition. (DK) 8

KING KONG 1 <- +> (Monster Comics; Simpson) This comic, based on the original novel by Edgar Wallace and Merian C Cooper, is quite good if a little cartoony. The first chapter takes us at a leisurely pace up to the first sighting of Kong on Monster Island, and on the basis of what I've read, I'll look for future issues. Lovely cover by Dave Stevens. (LC) 6

KINKY HOOK 1 (Eros; Stanton) Puerile bondage lacking any story narrative of worth. Credited to Eric Stanton although Steve Ditko is believed to have more than a passing interest in this forgettable debacle. (PCP) 0

MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER 1 <+ -> (Valiant; Shooter & Nichols + Layton) In one respect, this is very like the original Russ Manning series; it's pretty to look at and the script is a dog. The Magnus stories were always based on a remarkably stupid premise, that a man could punch his way through armoured robots after "special training", and Shooter's tale continues in that vein with a little token melodrama thrown in at the end. I can only guess that this comic is meant for little kiddies. (LC) For the art: 3

Futuristic society is threatened when robots turn on their masters. Enter Magnus! Lively and surprisingly good follow-up to the original Gold Key/Russ Manning series of the '60s. (PCP) 8

Oh dear, once dreadful, but charming Gold Key comic is transformed into Marvel-style pap, yet reading like a fan effort. This really wasn't worth the hype, I have read better things on toilet walls, really. (PH) 1

A revival of Russ Manning's classic '60s strip from ex-Marvel head Jim Shooter's new company, Magnus is easy to make a critique of: great art, feeble plot, cardboard characterisation. Love the pictures, shame about the story. (AW) 4

MIRACLEMAN 20 <-> (Eclipse; Neil Gaiman & Mark Buckingham) It's no use. I'm simply much too thick to appreciate this comic. Even the term "comic" seems irrelevant, given the weighty adult themes we're given to ponder here.

I dunno. I used to like this title when it actually had Miracleman in it, instead of vignettes of "real" people talking to each other in dialogue fashioned from real life but saying very little. At least Mark Buckingham has found his niche. His lifeless drawings manage to capture this hollow adult drama perfectly. Unabashed, he faithfully gives us the same picture three times during the course of this story.

Apparently Miracleman book IV ends next issue. End? Does that mean that something is actually going to happen?(JM)4

<- +> This "Winter's Tale" is a delight to read, featuring two of the many Miraclebabies - Mist and, of course, Winter. Particularly amusing (?) is Mist's surprising ease giving some heart-breaking news to her mother. The only thing that's been missing here lately is Miracleman himself; but if the book can maintain its recent quality without him, I'm sure no one minds. (AA) 10

MS MYSTIC 6 <-> (Continuity; Stone & Turner + Drake + Akin + Garvey) I have very few complaints about the art, though the colouring is a little garish in places, and I don't even mind the story (mad scientists and killer robots causing ecological damage). What I can't bear is four "heroes" called Urth, Ayre, Fyre and Watr - it grates with me that Neal Adams could come up with such ridiculous names and powers - and guess what they are? (LC) 5

THE MUMMY 2 <+ -> (Millenium; Perozich & Mooney + Herbert + Menendez) This is a good-looking book, faithful to the original novel by Anne Rice, and it reads well in comic form. Anne Rice fans will probably already be buying this, but for any fans of good comics who aren't entirely besotted by super-heroics, this is well worth a look. (LC) 7

THE MUMMY 3 <+ -> (Millenium; Perozich & Mooney + Mendez) Ramses the Damned entrusts another with his secret, those who have the truth staring them in the face refuse to believe it, and almost everybody else is scheming. Ramses

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decides he has to kill, and is only waiting for the right moment. The story continues to fascinate, and the painted art by Menendez is very good indeed. This is a nice book. (LC) 7

M 2 (of 4) <+ -> (Eclipse; Jon J Muth) However Muth comes up with these "painted photos", the results are extraordinary, and coupled with the tense, gripping narrative, the result is a truly unique comic. (SM) 10

NEW! COMICS 1 (A-1 Press (Canada); various) Vancouver is a sleepy town tucked away in western Canada, and its cartoon community has put together an equally dull, derivative and unchallenging collection. It's not that the strips are bad per se, but rather that you've seen it all before, and done better too. (SM) 4

OUTLANDERS 26 <++> (Dark Horse; Manabe) Jilehr turns the tables on Togo and the Earth is destroyed as the series reaches a dramatic high point. (PCP) 9

R.I.P. 6 <+ -> (TSR; various) Doug Moench is taking his time with the lead strip, building up the story and filling in motives in his usual methodical way, and making good comics as always. The back-up story, by Martin Powell, is quite funny in an over-the-top macabre sort of way, and nicely rendered by Pat Oliffe. (LC) 6

SAMUREE 8 <+ -> (Continuity; Stone & Hoover + Akin + Garvey) The art here is very good indeed, with Neal Adams' influence noticeably prominent. The story is pretty good, too, despite relying on that good old comics cliche, the nasty crack pedlars. Samuree knows how to deal with them, though, with a sword through the guts of the female gang leader just for starters. (LC) 6

SNAKE EYES: POST POPEYE PICTO-FICTION (Fantagraphics; various) Superb collection of off-the-wall strips. Highlights are Kaz's amazing "Tragedy of Satan", Glenn Head's surrealistic "NYC Subway Journal" and Julie Dorcet's short but brilliant "Alcoholic Romance", all of which demonstrate just how different and imaginative comics can be - and just how rigid and formularized most mainstream comics actually are. (SM) 10

SON OF MUTANT WORLD 5 <+> (Fantagor; Strnad & Corben) The final 12 pages of Corben's five-parter are fairly predictable, but I still enjoyed it: I've always liked Corben's work and only wish the market would support him more so that he could produce his excellent colour books as he wishes. In this final issue there's also a Bruce Jones "twist" story, as good as we've come to expect from him, plus an amusing and erotic short from Corben and Margopoulos, and a Bruce Jones and Brian Buniak spoof on Corben's video "The Dark Planet". Good stuff. (LC) 7

TIMEDRIFTER 3 <+> (Innovation; G Jones & Hubenig + Kleinberger) More excellent '30s drama which oddly ends on a cliffhanger with no further issues yet solicited by the publisher. It will be a shame if the series ends here. (PCP) 7

TORCHY 1 <+> (Innovation; Ward) Whatever the merits of this book, it's worth buying just for the gorgeous cover by Olivia de Berardinis. As it happens, the interior stuff is pretty good too, reprinting Bill Ward's 1940s stories which were condemned as "unsuitable" in Wertham's "Seduction of the Innocent". there's nothing sexual or titillating in here, just harmless fun with good Good Girl Art. (LC) 7

A collection of stories from the pen of Bill Ward starring his brainless sex siren of the '40s, Torchy Dodd. These stories were originally devoured by kids and adults alike in such diverse titles as Blackhawk and Doll Man. Now, the book is labelled "not intended for children". How times change! (PCP) 6

TOR LOVES BETTY (Eros; various) The creators here borrow Drew Friedman's favourite character, To Johnson, a '50s pin-up icon Betty Page. While good for a few laughs, the resulting comic doesn't live up to the promise of the premise. (SM) 6

I suppose even Betty Page will get over-exposed (if you'll pardon the pun). This is really dreadful stuff crammed around a spoof cartoon about Betty (Bondage Queen) Page and Tor (Plan 9 from Outer Space) Johnson, and how they share anonymity together as spinster and gardener. Dreadful. (PH) 0

2001 NIGHTS 6-8 <+> (Viz; Yukinobu Hoshino) Buy this comic. Buy all the back issues; buy all future issues. This is marvellous science fiction, beautifully illustrated, and restores my faith in comics. The stories "An Hour's Song in a Birdless Sky" and "So Brief, So Lasting a Love" (issues 7 and 8 respectively) are sad but uplifting and should convince any doubters who don't think that SF can be done well in comics. (LC) 9

VAMPIRE LESTAT 7-9 <+ -> (Innovation; Perozich & Gross) Behind John Bolton's excellent covers, the story is as gripping as ever, especially "Marius' Story" in issue 9. Anne Rice fans will know what to expect and will be, I imagine, very pleased with the way this comic has turned out. Definitely worth sticking with for the climax coming in the last three issues. (LC) 7

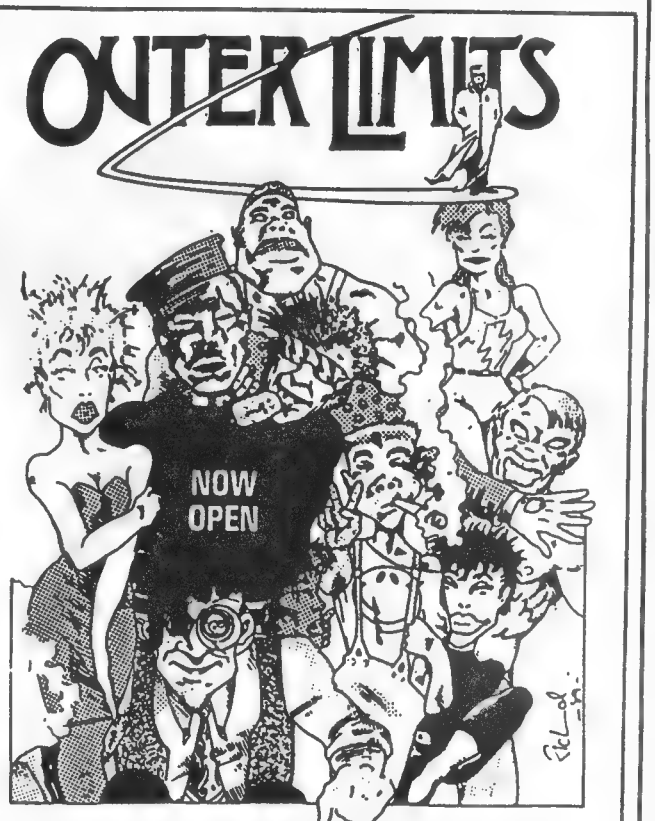
WHY I HATE SATURN (Piranha; Kyle Baker) Although this book has been out for some time I'm pleased to have caught up with it. Kyle Baker, at last unhampered by the pedestrian writing of Andy Helfer proves himself to immediately rank among those talents that not only write and draw, but who do both with great flair. Writers as well as artists in the industry will envy his facility with dialogue and drawing, both delivered with a facility that puts him up there with the Millers and Hernandezes of this world, and what this work lacks in structure it makes up for in narrative skill.

An unexpected and highly individual treat. (JM) 9

WILD, WILD WEST 4 <+> (Millenium; Ellis & Davis + Banks + Lewis + Rolle) Classy finale to a series that brought back fond memories of the way out western/spy TV series and which showed improvement issue by issue. Hopefully another series is planned. (PCP) 7

WORLD'S WORST COMICS AWARDS 2 (Kitchen Sink; Schumeister & Larson) On the whole, the target range is broader here, and the choices are fairer than last issue, but then the authors revert to type with their Marvel-bashing. Todd McFarlane's Spider-Man debut might not have been a work of art, but by no stretch of the imagination was it the worst comic of 1990. Assuming that these petty, pseudo-intellectual simpletons can actually read, have they perchance read the Punisher lately? Or Brute Force? Or Faust? Or Laundryland? Or most anything that Piranha Press or Aircel publish? Or anything by Barry Blair? Have they ever seen Amy Papuda? Need I go on? (SM) 4

YUMMY FUR 23 <+> (Vortex; Chester Brown) This issue probing the obsessional nature of certain habits we're beset by, "The Playboy Stories", continuing its exploration of sexual angst and the legion of ills that flesh is heir to. (DK) 10



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CRISIS 58 <+-> (various) At 48 pages for £1.75, it plays a risky game. While 2000AD at 45p can risk readers skipping one or two strips, every page has to count here. Of its 7 stories, only 3 click with me with Paul Grist stealing the top art honours. The title has certainly blossomed since its somewhat myopic early days and is a cornucopia of variety, but who are they aiming it at? (DGS) 6

EAGLE MONTHLY <---> (various). This first monthly issue, cover dated May, is headlined as "The New Eagle Monthly". New in price, new in format, but not in content. The cover betrays what follows, an awful paste-up of so-what frames "starring Dan Dare and your favourite pic-strip heroes". No Dan on the cover, and whose favourites are such reprints as Doomlord, Charley's War and and Shadow (the police dog)? Despite the 95p cover price, it is handled as if aiming at under 10s, the letters column and editor's 'laundry basket' being embarrassing. Obviously a case of drastic budget

cutting, it's dated, cheap-looking and a guaranteed loser. If Fleetway can do such a good job of 2000AD's Best Of monthly, why such a mess here? (DGS) 0

JUDGE DREDD: THE MEGAZINE 7 <+> (various) Another of the "John Wagner Presents" issues in which two of the three Wagner-penned strips shine out brightest as "America" reaches its moving and no doubt collectable conclusion and "Al's Baby" rolls on in a rollickingly sharp vein of humour that's been sorely lacking in 2000AD of late. A nice kick-off to the "Strange Cases" series from Warren Ellis and Sean Phillips and John Hicklenton at his colourful best in the otherwise hackneyed woman-becomes-monster lead feature round this issue out into an increasingly worthwhile package. (JC) 8

SLAINE THE HORNED GOD VOL 3 <-> (Mills & Bisley) Am I the only soul who thinks that Pat Mills is over-rated? Nowhere else has he recently matched the painstakingly researched background and witty dialogue that accompanies Simon Bisley's inhumanly brilliant and vibrant painted artwork that we get here. But even for all that, precious little of consequence actually happens that doesn't seem to have happened already in the first two volumes. Top marks for producing a beautiful coffee-table accessory, but another sequel would be squeezing it dry. (JC) 7

2000AD 723-725 <+ -> (various) Business as usual except it's all in colour now. Fleetway's flagship title is becoming increasingly complacent these days. The humdrum Fleischer and Smith "Rogue Trooper" limps to a fairly uneventful close as the stalwart Dredd, after the ructions of extreme dermatological problems, is back doing his usual thing. Elsewhere, Pat Mills with Carl Critchlow and new writing partner Tony Skinner turn in an inexplicably lacklustre opening to the new "Nemesis & Deadlock" series. This strip is riding on a ripple of past glory and should be put to rest. Now.

Otherwise, the return of "Robo-Hunter" by Mark Millar & Casanovas and Pete Milligan's sublimely silly "Bix Barton" are rapturous hints at the mad, rad, and glad to know carnival that 2000AD used to be. As for "Tao De Moto", 2000AD's "new Mega-Star"... well, not on the evidence of these two debut pages she ain't.

2000AD: Moving on but going nowhere in particular. Still, at 45p for 36 pages of full colour, it's an old friend that's worth dropping in on once a week, if only for a cup of synthi-caf. (JC) 8

<+> While Pat Mills has given 2000AD a true nemesis in Toxic!, his Warlock character gives the Fleetway weekly its best chance to reclaim its lost youth, even though you can tell his heart's not really in it. Robo-Hunter is dismal, missing creators Grant and Gibson -- Millar is awful at this style of writing. I only hope old Sam wakes up and finds it was all a dream.

Junker takes the words 'filler story' to new depths in its attempt to re-introduce the adventure story, and Bix Barton is a classic example of a writer considering his work beneath him. Trying to be clever, the strip comes across as messy, glib & patronising. Tao De Moto is all that shows promise, but falls a bit flat with such a small page count. The relaunch seems a bit wet really. But it's survived worse. (SF) 7

2000AD 727 <+++> (various) As competition on the weekly fantasy market appears, 2000AD begins to show its true strengths. A few weeks after the free-gifts and publicity boost, but Steve Dillon never has been the safest bet in a deadline competition. Really excellent Dillon cover, featuring Dredd and Guinness-toting Judge Joyce from the Emerald Isle, leading into what looks like a first rate new Garth Ennis Dredd serial, with Wendy Simpson doing a fine if slightly muddy job of colouring it. No embarrassingly twee creator bios from Igor in the Nerve Centre. Nemesis sits badly against Slade, though, with its strong art which could use a lighter hand on its colouring. Casanovas is a fine replacement for Gibson on Slade, and Millar's script should appeal to the kids. Bix Barton looks great, but is hardly mass market with its 'Carry On' storyline. Tao de Moto will doubtless make a handsome graphic novel, but two pages herein go nowhere. Nevertheless, Dave Hine's art and colours steal the show. Junker looks classically epic with an almost 3-D splash but needs a far better writer. The back cover comic shop ads look bitty and out of place. But the title's definitely back on top and brilliant value for 45p. (DGS) 9

MARVEL UK

KNIGHTS OF PENDRAGON 10 <++> (Abnett & Tomlinson + Erskine + Georgiou) Finally we get to just about the only big Arthurian element left out so far - the Holy Grail. K.O.P. is an excellent, gripping thriller that demands and deserves re-reading if only to keep up with the flurry of plot-lines. It's not just the super-hero vehicle or the horror comic or the environmentalist mouthpiece that it's lauded as being. Everything from the complex script to the bold and believable artwork make this title an object lesson in how to make comics convincing and innovative. A neat little Iron Man cameo also contributes to this being the most "more-ish" Marvel title around. (JC) 10

UK INDEPENDENT

THE BOGIE MAN 3 <-> (Wagner & Grant + Robinson) Francis Clunie looks like Humphrey Bogart. He also thinks he's Bogart, but Francis Clunie is in fact a Glasweigan nutter who's escaped from a secure hospital with, as Jeremy Beadle would say, hilarious consequences.

It's badly drawn, the publication schedule is non existent, and it's wonderful. This issue is entitled "To Huv and Huvnae" and if you don't think that's extremely witty and clever, then you're not the comic reader I thought you were.

Totally fandaberdozie, so it is, Jimmy. (JM) 8

THE BOGIE MAN 4 (of 4) <++> (Wagner & Grant + Smith) This series is clearly a labour of love for the creators. It's easily one of the funniest comics on the market as this concluding issue shows in the final lunatic Bogart pastiche that winds up the tale of frozen turkeys and a stolen Ford Sierra. Well suited for the pending BBC adaptation, but the joke could just start to wear a little thin before too long. Only time and Toxic! will tell. (JC) 9

DOWNSIDE 6 <+ -> (Joint Productions; McNamara & Ketley) making good use of a cartoony style writer and artist do not fail to impress regardless of other commitments interfering with this production's regularity and high standard.

For those not yet acquainted with this magazine - Downside's unglamorous scenes, depicting a community facing the politics of state law, enforcement and justice, will appear very real and its local residents most familiar.

Well worth the £1.30, despite the recession. (DK) 8

MORNINGSTAR BOOK 1: BLACK DOG (Trident; Kitching) Most of this material has previously only been seen in an apazine and a short-lived Harrier title, and I'm glad that it's getting a wider airing. Nigel Kitching has been preparing this stuff in some form or other for the best part of 10 years, and it's a strange cross between action heroics and folklore; unusual, but it works. (LC) 6

TOXIC! 1 & 2 (Apocalypse; various) Very promising. I felt very excited when I read it because it fills 2000AD's old territory with aggression, a little humour and an attitude that is born out with the quality of most of its content. Above all, it is a comic, not a comic trying to be a magazine which all the others are trying to do.

The only mar is the worst strip I have ever seen, "The Driver" which, beginning in issue 2, upsets the balance of the comic completely. A pathetic attempt to presumably reach the Viz crowd, it should be dropped immediately.

Bogie Man makes the jump to a new format and new artist well, and the styles of those veteran writers, Mills, Grant and Wagner shine through.

Somehow though, the balance seems severely wrong, with each strip either too long or too short and I question the mechanics of keeping this up on a weekly basis. (SF) 8

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134 136-139 @ £3.25; 135v 140v 148v @ £1.50; 147g @ £0.50
142-144 @ £2.25; 145(giant) @ £4.50; 146 149 151 @ £2.25
156-158 160 @ £2; 161(Death Mimic) @ £3; 162-171 @ £2.00
172 (X-Men) @ £5.00; 173-175 @ £1.75; 178(Warlock)@ £2.50
179 183-186 @ £1.25 187v 189v @ £1.00; 190-199 @ £1.25
200 (Silver Surfer) @ £3.00; 201-249 @ £1.50; 250 @ £3.00
272 (Alpha Flight) 273 (Sasquatch) @ £1.00; 301 @ £0.50
314 (1st Byrne) @ £1.25; 315 @ £0.75; 336-7 (McF) @ £5.00
338 339 (McFarlane) @ £2.75; 374-376 @ £0.60; 377 @ £2.00
Annuals: 5 6 @ £1.25; 8 9 10 @ £1.25; 14(Byrne) @ £1.50
11(Miller's 1st Marvel work) @ £2.00 12 13 15 @ £1.00
Iron Man 3v @ £15.00; 6v @ £5.00; 7 8 @ £8.50; 10v @ £4.00
11v @ £3.75; 12v+ @ £4.50; 13 14 @ £7.50; 16v @ £2.25
17-20 @ £5.00; 22 23 @ £3.50; 24v 25v @ £1.75; 26 @ £3.25
27-30 @ £3.25; 31v 32v 36v @ £1.50; 37 38 @ £3.00
40 @ £5.00; 43(giant) @ £6.00; 44 @ £5; 47(Smith) @ £9.50
48 49 @ £3.00; 50g 51g @ £1.00; 52v @ £1.75
55v (1st Destroyer, 1st Thanos, origin, Starlin) @ £5.50
56 (Starlin) @ £4.50; 57-66 @ £1.50; 67 68 @ £3.00
69 71-86 88-99 @ £1.25; 102-107 109-111 @ £0.75
112 114 117 @ £2.00; 125-128 @ £1.25; 171-173 @ £1.00
174-179 181-189 @ £0.75; 199 202 206 221-222 @ £0.50
223-224 226 230 231 @ £1.25; 232(Smith) £1; 233-9 @ £0.50
240-242 @ £0.50; 243(Smith art, Stark shot) @ £1.00
Annuals 3 4 @ £2.25; 5 6 @ £1.50; 7(W C Avengers) @ £2.00
8(X-Factor) @ £2.00; 9 10 @ £1.50
Journey into Mystery 69v (1961; pre-Thor) @ £9.50
117g-v @ £2.50; 120fg @ £1.00; 122g @ £1.50
Jungle Action 3 4 @ £1.50; 5 6v 7 8 9 10v @ £1.00
11v 12v+ 13 14 15v 16v 17-23 @ £0.60; 24 @ £0.75
Justice 6 7 13-15 18-28 @ £0.50 Kickers Inc 1-4 6-9 @ £0.30
Ka-Zar 1970 series: 1g @ £1.25; 2(origin + Angel) @ £4.00
3 (Daredevil, continuing Angel new strip) @ £3.50
1974 series: 1 @ £1.50; 2-4 @ £1; 5g @ 0.50; 6-18 @ £0.75
1981-4 series: 1 @ £1.25; 2-10 @ £1.00; 11-33 @ £0.60
Kid Colt, Outlaw 1 2 (both no covers, 1948) @ £1.75
97g @ £1.50; 99v @ £2.00; 104g-v 109g-v @ £1 106fg@ £0.50
108v 111v 114v 117v @ £1.25; 112g-v @ £0.75; 127g @ £0.50
Kitty Pride & Wolverine (mini) 1 2 3 @ £3.00; 5 @ £3.50
Knights of Pendragon (UK) 1 @ £1.50; 6 @ £1.00
Kull & The Barbarians (b&w mag) 3g (Chaykin, Weiss) @ £1.50

EQUATOR PRODUCTIONS, HARLAND COTTAGE, THE HIGHLANDS, ARDINGLY ROAD CUCKFIELD, WEST SUSSEX RH17 5HL

Kull The Destroyer 1972: 11 14 (xInt Ploog art) @ £1.25
1982 series, 52 pgs: 1 (Buscema) £1.50 2(Bolton) @ £2.50
1983 series, 52 pgs: 1 @ £1.25 2(Sienkiewicz) @ £2.50
Last American (Grant/Wagner + McMahon) 1 2 @ £2.00
Light & Darkness War (Wagner, Grant, Kennedy) 1-6 @ £1.00
Longshot (Art Adams mini) 3 @ £5.00; 5(Spider-man) @ £6.50
Machine Man (Barry Smith mini) 1 @ £2.25; 2 3 4 @ £1.75
Marshal Law (Epic) 2 3 4 @ £3.00; 5 6 @ £2.50
Marvel Comics Presents 1 @ £3.00; 3-5 @ £1.50; 6-10 @ £1.25
11-16 @ £1.00; 18(Byrne art) @ £1.25; 20 21 22 @ £0.75
Marvel Fanfare 1 (Spidey & Angel, Smith/Golden art) @ £4.00
2 (Golden) @ £3.75; 3 (X-Men) @ £3.00; 4 (X-Men) @ £4.00
5 (Dr Strange) 6(Spider-Man) 7(Hulk, DD) @ £1.50
8 (Sienkiewicz) @ £2.00; 9-14 @ £1; 15(B Smith) @ £2.00
16 17 @ £1.00; 18(Miller Cap America) @ £2.50; 19 @ £2.00
20 22 23 25 26-32 @ £1; 33(X-Men) @ £1.75; 34-37 @ £1.00
38 (Moon Knight by Sienciewicz) @ £2.00; 41 44 53 @ £1.25
Marvel Feature 1 (52pg origin & 1st Defenders) @ 10.95
4 (Ant-Man series begins) @ £2.00; 5 8 9 10 @ £1.75
6v 7v @ £1.25; 11 12 (both Starlin Hulk v Thing) @ £4.50
2nd series: Red Sonja issues 1(Adams) £1.50; 2-6 @ £0.95
Marvel Masterworks Fantastic 4(1-10); X-Men (1-10) @ 18.95
Amazing Spider-Man (1-10 + Amazing Fantasy origin) £18.95
Marvel Movie Premiere One shot "Land Time Forgot" @ £6.00
Marvel Premiere 15 (1st Iron Fist, Gil Kane) @ £4.00
16-20 @ £1.50; 21 23 (scarce) @ £2.00; 22 24 @ £0.75
25 (Byrne) @ £5.00; 26-31 @ £0.60; 32-34(Chaykin) @ £1.00
35 36 (3-D Man) @ £1.50; 37-44 @ £0.60; 45-6(Perez) £1.00
47-8(new Ant-Man by Byrne) @ £1; 49 (Falcon) @ £0.75
50(Alice Cooper) @ £4.50; 51-56 61 @ £0.60
Marvel Preview (b&w mag) 1 (Nino) @ £4.00; 3(Blade) @ £2.00
4 (first Starlord) @ £3.00; 5 6 (Sherlock Holmes) @ £2.00
7(Satana) 8(Legion of Monsters) 9(Gladiator) @ £2.00
10 (Thor + Hercules back up) 11(Starlord Byrne) @ £2.50
12 (Haunt of Horror, Kaluta) 13(UFOs incl J Lennon) £2.00
14 15(both Starlord) 16(Masters of Terror, Colan) @ £2.00
17 (Blackmark, Gil Kane) 18(Sienkiewicz Starlord) @ £3.00
19(Kull) @ £2.00; 20(Chaykin's Dom Fortune & Perez) £3.00
21(Moon Knight by Sienkiewicz + Ditko's Shroud) @ £3.50
22 (Merlin by Busc) @ £2.00; 23(Miller, Bissette) @ £3.00
24 (Paradax) @ £2.00 Marvel Saga 2 @ £1.00; 7 @ £0.60
Marvel Spotlight 3 4 (Werewolf by Night, Ploog art) @ £2.00
5 (1st Ghost Rider, origin) g-v @ £6.50; 9 10 @ £2.50
14 21 (Son of Satan) @ £1; 26(Scarecrow) 27(Namor) @ £0.75
28 29 (1st solo Moon Kinght stories) @ £1.50; 30 @ £0.75
vol 2: (1979-81) 1-4 (Cap Marvel) @ £0.75; 5-7 @ £0.60
Capt Universe issues: 9 10 @ £0.75; 11(rare) @ £1.25
Marvel Super-Heroes (1960s, 68pg) 13(Cap Mar-vell) @ £8.50
17 (Black Knight) @ £3.00; 18v(Guardians 1st app) @ £2.75
Marvel Super-Heroes (UK) 383 (Cap Brit by Davis) @ £4.50
Marvel Super Special 41(Howard the Duck, Kyle Baker) @ £3.00
Marvel Team-Up 6v @ £3.25; 9g @ £1.25; 10v 12v+ @ £2.00
14 @ £4.00; 16-19 @ £3.50; 20v @ £2.50; 21-23 @ £3.00
24-37 @ £1.00; 38(Beast) @ £2.25; 39-52 @ £1.00
53 (Byrne's 1st X-Men, Hulk) @ £5.25; 54-64(Byrne) @ £1.25
65 (Cap Britain, Byrne) @ £5.00; 66(Cap B, Byrne) @ £3.50
67-70 (Byrne) @ £1.50; 71-74 @ £0.75; 75 79(Byrne) @ £1.25
76-78 80 @ £0.75; 81 @ £1.50; 82-99 @ £0.60; 100 @ £3.00
101 @ £0.50; 102-111(ND) @ £1.00; 112-116 119-148 @ £0.60
149 (New Mutants) @ £1; 150 (giant, B Smith X-Men) @ £5.00
Annuals; 1 (X-Men) @ £6.00; 2 3 4 5 6 7 @ £1.50
Marvel Treasuries (13x10" card cover, squarebound editions)
4 (Conan, 100pg Smith reprints) @ £3.00; 5(Hulk) @ £2.50
6 (Dr Strange,Ditko, Brunner, Colan, Severin,etc) @ £4.00
11 (FF Lee/Kirby reprints) @ £2.00; 13 (Grab Bag) @ £2.00
15 & 23 (both Conan, 84 pg, Buscema, Smith, Kane) @ £3.00
Marvel Two-in-One 3 @ £4.00; 4 5 9 @ £3; 8(G/Rider) @ £4.00
12-22 24 26 28 30-42 @ 0.60; 43(Byrne) @ £1; 44-9 @ £0.60
50 53-55 (all Byrne) @ £1.25; 51(Miller) @ £2; 52 @ £0.60
56-71 @ £0.60; 72 73(ND) 75(giant) @ £1; 74 76-82 @ £0.50
83 (Sasquatch) 84 (Alpha Fl) @ £0.75; 85-99 @ £0.50
Annuals 1 @ £2.00; 2 (Starlin, Thanos dies) @ £4.00
3 @ £2.00; 4 5 6 @ £1.25; 7 (X-Men) @ £2.00
Marvel Universe, Deluxe Edition 1 @ £3.00; 4 5 @ £2.00
6 7 8 9 @ £1.75; 11-17 19 @ £1.25
Master of Kung Fu 15 (1st, Starlin) @ £3.50; 16 @ £3.25
25(Gulacy) @ £2.25; 36-7 41 @ 0.75; 38-40(Gulacy) @ £1.00
42-48 50 (all Gulacy) @ £1; 51-96 @ £0.60; 97-98 @ £1.00
100 118 (giants) @ £0.75; 101-117 119-121 @ £0.50
123 124 (ND) @ £1 Annual 1 @ £1.50; 1990 Special @ £2.00
Meltdown 1-4 @ £2.50 Moonshadow 2 @ £5; 3-6 8 10 @ £4.00
Moon Knight (Sienkiewicz in 1-23) 1 @ £1.50; 2 3 @ £1.00
4 5 @ £2.00; 6-23 @ £0.75; 32 33 (Nowlan) @ £1.25
35 (giant size, X-Men) @ £2.75; 36 (scarce) @ £1.00
2nd series (1985) 1 @ 0.75; 2-4 6 @ 0.50; 1(1989) @ £0.75
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11 @ £2.50; 12-17 @ £1.75; 18-30 @ £1.50; 31-41 @ £1.00
New Mutants 1 @ £4.00; 2 @ £2.50; 3 @ £1.75; 4-6 @ £1.25
7 @ £1.50; 8-13 @ £1.25; 14-17 @ £2.00; 18(Sienk) @ £2.00
19 20 @ £1.50; 21 (giant) @ £2.00; 23-35 @ £1.25
55-58 @ £0.75; 59 61 @ £1.25; 62-70 @ £0.75; 71-2 @ £1.00
73 (giant) @ £1.25; 74 76 79 @ £0.75; Ann 1 @ £2.00
2 (Davis art, Capt Britain) @ £2.50; 4 @ £2.00; 5 @ £1.50
Nick Fury Agent of SHIELD (1960s) 7 @ £5; 8v 9v 11v @ £2.00
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Psi-Force 1-3 @ £1.00; 8 9 13-15 20 24 26 28-30 32 @ £0.50
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14 16 18 19 @ £1.75; 22 24-26 @ £1.00; 27(Perez) @ £1.25
28-47 @ £0.60; 48 49 50(Byrne) @ £1.25; 51-56 65 @ £0.60
57(X-Men) @ £1.50; 58-64(ND) @ £1.00; 66(S/tooth) @ £3.50
67-74 @ £0.50; 75(giant) 76-77 (Daredevil) @ £1.00
78-99 101-117 @ £0.50; 122 123(ND) @ £1.00
Power Pack 2 3 @ £1.00; 4-11 @ £1.00; 12-13(X-Men) @ £1.25
14-18 26 28 30-32 34-45 @ £1.00; 46(Punisher) @ £1.50
Powerline (Epic) 1 2 3 6 @ £1.25
Punisher (all issues NM++) mini: 1 £35; 2 £16; 3 @ £8.50
4 5 @ £7.50 --- or set of 5 for £65.00
Punisher (all issues NM++) ongoing: 1 £11.50; 3 @ £7.50
4 5 @ £6.00; 6-9 11 @ £5; 12 13 @ £4.50; 14-17 @ £3.25
19 21 22 24 25 @ £2.50 26-30 @ £2.00 Annual 1 @ £7.50
Punisher War Journal (all NM++) 1 £7.50; 2-3 (DDevil) £4.00
4 @ £3.00; 6 (Wolverine) @ £10.00; 7(Wolverine) @ £4.00
9-13 @ £2.25; 14-15 (Spider-Man) @ £2.00
Rampage (UK) all feature X-Men repr & Timesmasher by Austin
40(D Lloyd interview) 41 42 43 (Byrne repr in each) £1.00
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Rom 1 @ £1.50; 2 3 @ £0.50; 4-9 @ £1.50; 10-16 @ £1.00
17 18 (both X-Men) @ £2.00; 19-22 @ £0.50; 23(ND) @ £2.00
24-55 @ 0.60; 56-7 (both Alpha Flight) £1; 58-73 @ £0.50
74(Byrne) @ £1 Annuals 1 2 4 @ £1; 3(New Mutants) @ £1.50
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Savage Sword of Conan 4 (Adams, Kane, Corben strips) @ £5.50
72 @ £1.00; Annual 1 (1975 Smith repr Conan 10 13) @ £3.00
Savage Sword of Conan (UK) 15-17 19 21 22 24 26 61 @ £0.75
Savage Tales (US b&w mag) 1v (1971 new Conan by Smith,
origin & 1st Man Thing by Morrow, Ka-Zar, etc) @ 18.50
2 (Smith, Maneely, Wrightson, Williamson, Barr) @ 12.50
2nd series 2 (Goodwin/Sev, Morrow, Reese, war) @ £2.00
Secret Wars 1 £3; 2 4 5 @ £1.50; 6-11 @ £1.00; 12 @ £1.25
Secret Wars II 1 @ £1.25; 2-8 @ £1.00; 9 (giant) @ £1.50
Semper Fi (Marines, companion to The Nam) 1-5 @ £0.75
Sensational She-Hulk Graphic Novel (Byrne) @ £4.50
She-Hulk 1st series 3 4 7-10 @ 75p; 12-24 @ £0.60
2nd series 1 @ £1.50; 2 3 4 6-8 @ £1.25; 10-12 @ £1.00
Silver Surfer (1987) 3 4 @ £2.00; 5-7 @ £1; 13-21 @ £0.75
Sisterhood of Steel (Epic) 1 @ £1.50; 2 4 5 6 7 @ £1.00
Six From Sirius II 2:1 £2; 3 4 @ £1.50 Sleeze Bros 1 @ £1.00
Speedball(Ditko) 1 £1; 2-5 @ £0.60 Spellbound 2-4 6 @ £0.75
Spiderman, The Amazing 43p-f 51fg @ £0.95; 62 64 65 @ £7.50
63v 66-7v @ £3.50; 68 @ £7.00; 69g @ £1.25; 70-5v @ £3.25
76-80v+ @ £3.95; 81 @ £6.00; 82 84 85 88 (all v+) @ £3.50
89 90 @ £5.75; 91g @ £1.25; 92v @ £3; 93 @ £5; 95 @ £7.50
99 @ £5; 102v @ £5; 105 106 108 110 @ £6; 107v 109v £3.50
112g-v @ £1.50; 113 (Starlin) @ £6.50; 114g @ £1.00
116 @ £4.50; 117v 118v 120v @ £3.00; 124-128 130 @ £5.00
131-133 136-160 @ £4.00; 163-173 @ £3.00; 181-186 @ £2.50
187(Starlin) @ £2.75; 188 @ £2.50; 189-190(Byrne) @ £2.75
191-193 195-199 @ £2.50; 203-205 @ £2; 206(Byrne) @ £2.75
207-213 @ £2.00; 219 (Miller cvr) £1.25; 246-251 @ £2.00
253 255 256 259 @ £1.25; 311(McF) @ £4.50; 312 @ £5.50
313(McFarlane, Lizard) @ £5.50; 316(Venom, McF) @ £4.75
Annuals 4v @ £4.50; 5 @ £7.00; 10 11 @ £2.50; 12 @ £2.00
16-19 @ £1.75; 20 @ £2.00; 21 @ £2.25; 22 @ £1.50
Spiderman Giant-Size(1975) 2(Shang Chi) 3(Doc Savage) £3.00
Spectacular Spider-Man 6-16 @ £2.50; 19 21 24-26 @ £2.00
22 23 (Moon Knight) @ £3.50; 30-42 44-52 @ £2.50
53-57 @ @ £1.50; 58(Byrne) @ £2.00; 60 (giant) @ £2.50
59 61-63 65-68 @ £1.25; 69 70 (Cloak & Dagger) @ £2.00
71 73 74 @ £1.25; 75(giant) @ £2; 76 78-80 @ £1.50
77 @ £2.25; 81(Punisher) @ £5.00; 84 86 97-99 @ £1.00
90 93 @ £1.50; 94-96 (Cloak & D) @ £1.25; 100(gt) @ £1.50
102 103 105-107 109 110 114 @ £1.25; 130 134 138 @ £1.00
139 147 148 @ £0.75; 150 151 @ £0.50 Anns 2-4 6 8 @ £2.00
Spider-man (McF) 1(green) @ £1.75; 1(silver) @ £2.25
2-5 @ £1.50; 6 7 (Ghost Rider) 8-10 (Wolverine) @ £1.25
Spitfire 2-9 @ 0.30 Squadron Supreme 3-11 @ £1; 12 @ £1.50
Stalkers (Epic) 2 3 @ £1.50; 5-8 @ £1.25
Starbrand 1 @ £0.75; 4-8 12 13 @ £0.50; 14-19(Byrne) @ £0.75
Starstruck (Kaluta) 1 @ £2.00; 2-6 @ £1.50; G/Novel @ £5.00
Star Wars Treasuries 1 2 @ £1 Steelgrip Starkey 1 2 @ £1.00
Strange Tales Brother Voodoo: 169 (small cvr pc mssng) 1.00
170-173 @ £1.50; Golem: 174 176 177 @ £1.25; 175 @ £0.60
Strikeforce Morituri 2 3-6 8 9 11 12 14 17 18-20 @ £0.75
21-28 30 @ £1.00 Swords of the Swashbucklers 2-9 @ £1.00
Sub-Mariner 2 @ £12.50; 3-5 @ £7; 6 7 @ £6.25; 8g+ @ £3.00
9g-v @ £2.00; 10v+ @ £4.50; 11-13 @ £3.50; 14 @ £6.50
15-20 @ £3.25; 21 23-8 30 @ £3.25; 29g @ £1; 31-3 @ £3.00
36-38 @ £2.75; 39g-v 40g-v @ £1.25; 41 42 44-50 @ £2.75
43 (giant) @ £5.00; 51-68 @ £2.00; 69 (Spiderman) @ £2.75
70-72 @ £2.50 Sub-Mariner (1984 mini) 1-4 @ £1.25
Tales of Suspense 51 (Iron Man) v+ @ £8.50
24 (1961; Ditko & Kirby)v but 2 spine punch holes @ £2.75
Tales to Astonish 93 (Hulk v Surfer)v @ £4.50
Thing (Byrne: 1-7) 1 @ £2.75; 2-7 @ £1.00; 8-31 @ £0.50
Thor 182-184 @ £3.75; 185v 186v @ £2.00; 187 @ £6.00
188 189 @ £3.75; 190-192 @ £6.00; 193(Surfer,52pg) @ 12.50
194-199 203 @ £3.75; 208v 209v 211v @ £1; 212-3 @ £2.25
214v 215v @ £1.25; 219 @ £2.25; 227-230 @ £1.75
231-240 @ £1; 241-259 @ £0.75; 260-271(Simonson) @ £1.00
272-282 @ £0.75; 283 284 @ £1.25; 285-299 @ £0.75
300 (52pg) @ £4.00; 301-303 @ £0.50; 304 305 @ £1.25
306-336 @ £0.50; 337(1st Simonson) @ £4.00; 338 @ £2.50
339 @ £1.50; 340-342 @ £1.25; 343-354 @ £1; 355-6 @ £0.50
357-360 362 363 367 @ £0.75; 384-387 390-393 396 @ £0.50
397-8 @ £0.50; 400 @ £1.75; 401-403 409 410 413-4 @ £0.50
Annuals: 6 @ £2.25; 7(Simonson) @ £1.50; 8-14 @ £1.25
Tomb of Dracula 4-6 @ £3.00; 7-18 @ £1.25; 19-22 @ £1.50
23 24 27 @ £1; 34-43 45 49 @ £1.50; 55-59 61 62 @ £1.00
Time Spirits 1 @ £1.50; 2-8 @ £1.00 Two-Gun Kid 63 @ £4.00
Video Jack 4 5 6 @ £1.00 Void Indigo (Epic) 1 2 @ £2.50
Web of Spider-Man 2 @ £2.25; 3-6 @ £1.75; 7-10 @ £1.50
30(1st Hobgoblin) @ £2.00; 33 @ £1.50; 34 38 39 @ £1.00
44-48 @ £1; 50(giant) @ £1.25; 51 @ .50; Annual 4 @ £1.75
Werewolf by Night 2-5 @ £2.00; 7-14 @ £1.25; 15-17 @ £1.50
20-31 @ £1.00; 39 41 @ £0.60 Annuals: 2 3 5 @ £2.25
West Coast Avengers (mini) 1 3 @ £3.00; 2 4 @ £2.75
ongoing: 2 3 @ £1.75; 4 6-8 @ £1.50; 10 11 @ £1.25
22 24-28 33-41 @ £0.50; 42-45 53-56 (Byrne) @ £1.00
Annuals 1 @ £2.50; 2(Surfer) @ £2; 3 @ £1.75; 4 @ £1.50
What If 42(FF) @ £1.25; 2nd series 1 @ £3.00; 2 @ £2.25
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8 9 @ £1.50; 20-24 @ £1.00; 26 @ £1.50; 27-30 @ £1.00
32-35 @ 0.75; 36 37 @ £1.25; 38(52pg) @ £1.50; 50 @ £1.75
40 41 43 47-49 51 @ £0.75; Annuals 1 @ £2.00; 2-4 @ £1.50
X-Men 144-149 @ £2.00; 150(52pg) @ £2.50; 151-157 @ £2.00
158 @ £2.50; 159(Sienkiewicz) 160 @ £2.00; 161 @ £2.50
162 @ £3; 163 164 @ £3.25; 165 @ £3.50; 166(52pg) @ £4.00
167 @ £3; 168-170 @ £3.50; 171 @ £5; 172 @ £4; 173 £5.00
174 @ £3; 175(52pg) @ £5; 176-185 @ £2.75; 186(52pg) £2.50
187-192 @ £1.75; 193(52pg) @ £3.50; 194 195 @ £1.75
196 197 @ £2.50; 198 (Barry Smith) @ £2; 200(52pg) @ £3.00
216 221 @ £0.75; 222 @ £1.50; 224 @ £1.25; 225 @ £1.50
228 230-1 @ 0.75; 233 @ £1.25; 234-241 @ 0.75; 242 £1.50
244-245 247 254-255 @ 0.75; 256-258 @ £1.00; 259 @ £0.75
Annuals: 3(Perez) @ £5.50; 4(Dr Strange) @ £5; 5 @ £4.00
6(Sienkiewicz) @ £3; 7(Golden) 8 @ £2.50; 9(Adams) @ £6.00
10(Art Adams) 11(Davis) @ £3.00; 12(Adams) 13 14 @ £1.50
X-Men & Alpha Flight (2-part mini 52pg P Smith) 1 2 @ £2.50
X-Men & Micronauts (4-part mini) 1 @ £1.75; 2 3 4 @ £1.50
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From the Heart of England, **Comics International's** monthly report on the UK comics market.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Prices, projects and people in the news, as covered by ITMA.

SPIDER-MAN 1: PLATIGNUM PRICES

THE Comic Mart held recently at London's Royal Horticultural Hall was the site of the first recorded sale of Marvel's limited edition printing of you-know-what. Adventure into Comics sold one for £200, only to receive orders for six more from people also willing to pay £200.

Looking at my prediction last issue where I anticipated copies selling for £100 as soon as they reached the shops, it seems I underestimated the demand by 100%!

But this doesn't mean bargain copies can't be found. Two North West comic shops sold copies for ... £5 each. Well done, guys, you get an award for being the most generoud shopkeepers in the land. You know who you are!

NEW MUTANTS

This is a title which has suddenly gained dealer support. Since Rob Liefeld's arrival on art, prices have begun to soar.

In America, issue 87 (first full appearance by Cable) has been getting in excess of $30, and with the impending **X-Force** debut, dealers there expect the issue soon to top $50.

All the Liefeld issues are becoming increasingly scarce, so grab them, hoard them. Liefeld's **New Mutants** "Atlantis Attacks" debut is now around £5, yet **X-Men 245** can still be found for 60p when a more realistic price should be around £3.00.

If you've missed on on picking up all of the above, then take heart. After repeated months of telling you how hot **The Hulk** has become, it seems America has caught on, with all the Dale Keown drawn issues now gaining in value. Issue 367 is at £2; 368 (Sam Kieth) is £2.50 and 369 is higher. First and second prints of 377 are selling like hot cakes, and you can expect even more interest in the title as US dealers come to the UK to take back copies.

Many dealers and shop owners haven't yet caught on to the book's success, so get hunting for any 60p copies you can find.

I spent a weekend in late March talking to American Chris Klem, and he still believes we are ripe picking grounds for US dealers. But what he can't understand is why we are not more up to date on our values. He purchased £75 worth of comics from a dealer at the Leeds Comic Mart which he believes have a resale value in America of over £200.

THE AMERICANS ARE COMING!

With top US comics distributor Diamond trying for a foothold in Europe, we may well see a drop in the prices of advance import comics. At present some shops around the country sell $1 titles at 60p, with DCs at 50p. With Diamond offering up to 50% off $1 books, even with the cost of freighting added UK prices could drop by 5-10p

STATE OF THE MARTS

Having travelled most of the country in my relentless search for news and bargains, I felt it was time to comment on the events themselves. More mart events are being planned all the time. With Bristol, Exeter and Milton Keynes being added, it looks like another growth year for the industry. Which is a good sign, because private collectors and small traders often take tables at marts, so bargains can often be found, especially at the smaller venues where bigger dealers aren't present to buy all the under-priced items before the public is let in.

But there are exceptions. Overheard at a recent Manchester mart was the following sales pitch, "You better buy it now, mate, 'cos the new Guide's out soon, so our prices will be going up by a third."

MARVEL HOT TITLES

Besides all of their hot books, Marvel have bolstered their top sellers with some popular recent titles. **Guardians of the Galaxy** (page for page more action than any other Marvel) is warming up, helped by this year's cosmic annual cross-over. **Namor** has John Byrne producing possibly his most self-indulgent and continuity-crunching comic. **New Warriors** was a slow mover, but — with its impending X-books tie-in, has become a contender. The title's writer, Fabian Nicieza, adding mutants to his dominion, is strongly tipped for top honours. **Marvel Comics Presents** is proving to be a mammoth hit, due to the serialised Weapon X origin, and back issues are already becoming hard to get, with issues 72 and 74 being particularly

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thin on the ground. Hopefully, all **Comics International** readers have been following my tips and already stockpiled them.

But the biggest rise outside of the top five titles must be **X-Factor.** Sales on issues 63 to 66 have rocketted, and these books by Whilce Portacio, along with **X-Men 267** are destined for far higher prices.

MARVEL COLD TITLES

However, Marvel has more than its share of titles on the slide. The new revamped **Avengers** pales against its younger brother **West Coast Avengers. Questar,** another revamped title, is piling up in the bargain bins, even though issue 1 is commanding £5. **Moon Knight** desparately needs the revamp about to strike, as do **SHIELD, Conan, RoboCop** and **Alpha Flight,** with only the latter, again scripted by Nicieza, earning any respect.

THE DC MIX

While interest has been rekindled in America, DC's mixed bag of titles continues to lose popularity, with more and more titles falling by the wayside.

Currently hot titles include: **Legends of the Dark Knight,** with two successive good serials; **L.E.G.I.O.N.** '91 (with Lobo appearances); **Demon, Doom Patrol** and **Sandman** — which is finally big in America, and has securéd its future.

Major changes are in store for **Swamp Thing,** as sales and interest have pushed the book perilously close to cancellation yet again. Also sagging on UK sales: **Flash** (despite the recent hype), **New Titans, Dr Fate, Starman** and **Captain Atom.** Which explains why all by the last are going through major changes to save them.

Armageddon 2001 arrived to mixed feelings. Some fans wish it didn't tie in to so many DC annuals (12 in all), while others pray there will be some sort of cohesion across the tie-ins. Bets are already underway on the identity of Monarch, the three current favourites being Firestorm, Rip Hunter (after his awful mini-series, he has no future) and the book's hero — Waverider.

CENTRE CRISIS

Hopefully like everybody else, I read with horror the piece last issue about the cash crisis at the London Cartoon Centre.

The way that editors spend so little time with budding superstar artists and writers, someone's got to do the job of teaching them.

We keep reading about publishers and dealers spending fortunes through today's and yesterday's titles, but no one seems to care about tomorrow's titles. If they do, how come the Centre is having such a shaky time?

Lots of publishers have already made profits out of artists who've been through the Centre, it would be nice if they put some of that money back in to help the next generation.

HITHER & YON

Toxic! was well received in comic shops and sales have been steady (moreso than the weekly frequency, which has already experienced delays). But it's the high streets where the bulk of the print run has to sell, like 90%+, if it is to continue. While everyone is asking 'why weekly, monthly would have been safer", unsolds are piling up in some newsagents, with average sales where spot checks have been done being only 3-5 out of 15-20 copies.

Why hadn't the distributor anticipated or reacted to this by cutting back quantities?

Eclipse have found a steady market for their prestige format titles. Though they don't have much investment potential, they're nice bookshelf comics.

Clive Barker has been long overdue for a mention in this column, but it hardly needs to be said that with the resurgence of interest in horror comics, anything with his name in the logo is a guaranteed winner.

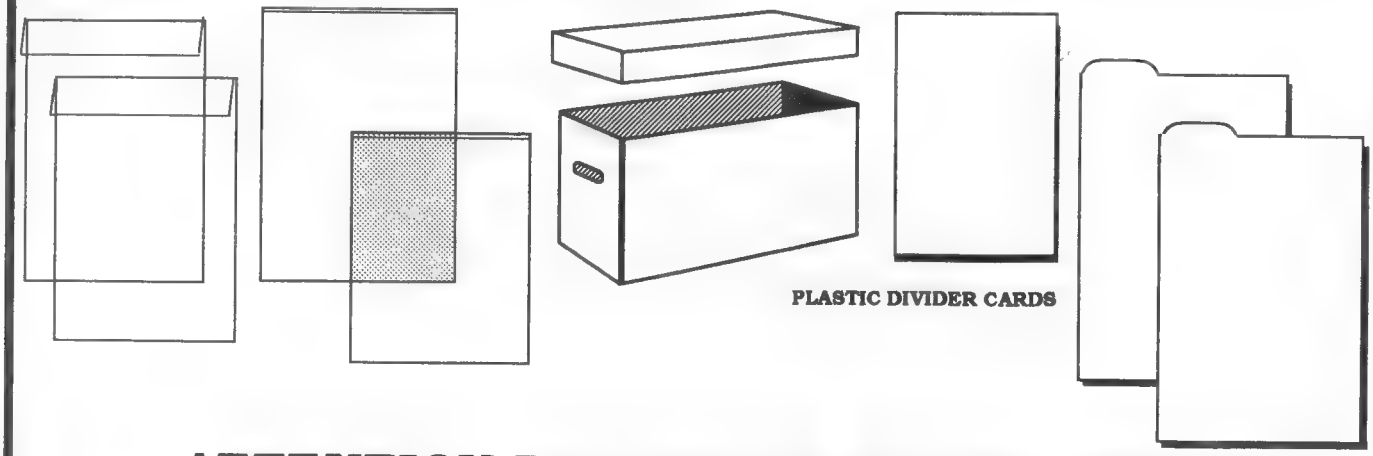
SILVER AGE

While the current title market continues to expand, the 'silver age' titles of the mid/late Fifties to mid/late Sixties are increading in popularity. At a recent London Mart, on dealer admitted to taking in excess of £10,000. His sales included a run of **Showcase** Flash issues (4,9, 12, 13) for £3,500, **Amazing Spider-Man 1** for £1,200 and a **Journey into Mystery 83** (1st Thor) for £800. Imagine what it will be like when the recession is over!

LOW GRADE PRICE SLUMP

But the glut of old titles that have surfaced is making it increasingly difficult to sell lower grade copies unless the price is substantially lower. Given that this means people are buying less for enjoyment and more for supposed investment, it is a good sign. Lower grade copies of old comics are starting to sell for what they are worth, rather than at grossly inflated prices just because they are old.

A few recent examples have included a **Hulk 2** for £25, **Amazing Fantasy 15** at £250 and the excellent bargain of a solid fine plus (with slight restoration) **Spider-Man 1** for £500. An **Avengers 1** sold recently in a Midlands shop for £100, and the nicest story was a Northern comic shop giving a loyal customer a **Fantastic Four 48** (1st Surfer) free of charge as a 21st birthday present.



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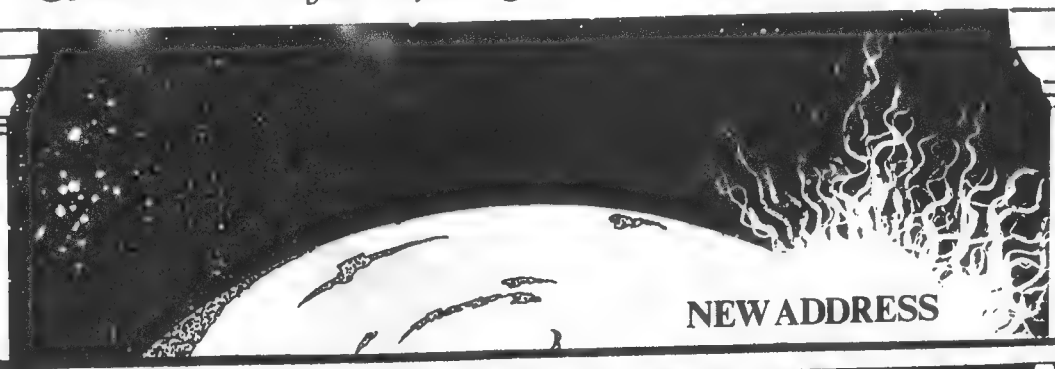

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COMICS INTERNATIONAL LETTERS, 77 OXFORD ST, LONDON W1

Another crammed 64 page giant issue has resulted in a few items being cut, including part of this letters column.

The magazine is succeeding beyond all expectations. No less than 15 new specialist shops have started carrying it over the last three months, as well as our bulk shipping to students at London's Chisenhale Art Education Workshop and Liverpool's City College Cartoon Workshop. This in addition to the London Cartoon Centre, The Society of Strip Illustration and various members of the Cartoonists Club.

Our subscription copies are now over 850, and our international readership is swelling.

We're still handling our own distribution in the true spirit of independence, and the workload is crippling.

Ah, for the 48 page 2000 circulation orginally targeted. The burden of success is a heavy one. ... Derek (Dez) Skinn/Editor

---

Jim Graham
West Wickham, Kent

Two articles in issue nine of your magazine have inspired me to write. Namely, the US's difficulty in weekly distribution and DC's reliance on British sales.

Why is it therefore that Britain with its fewer distribution problems doesn't have popular DC titles reprinted here, such as Marvel does with **The Complete SpiderMan**?

Without having to pay for increased transport and "wasted" copies, the comics would be cheaper, but you can't rely on London Editions to deliver the DC goods.

One of the reasons their DC **Action** and **Zones** failed was that they were reprinting monthly comics on a bi-monthly basis. It would have taken 4½ years to complete Grant Morrison's 26 issue **Animal Man** run and was therefore not worth waiting for when you could get back issues of the original run.

You would have thought that a monthly format (**Shockwave**) would have alleviated that problem, but not so. With their policy of splitting the original issues in two and rotating stories, it will take four months to complete one original story.

Because a British printed series would be cheaper, it would lead to increased sales in this country. With such worthy titles as **Sandman**, that would be a godsend for the industry as more people discovered the delights of (to paraphrase Agent Cooper) a damn fine comic.

I would also like to thank Steven Fountain for his **2000AD** piece in 'Comment'. I could not agree with him more. In my opinion, the sooner they get over their love affair with US writer Michael Fleisher, the sooner the title can start on its road to recovery.

Toxic, besides being far better, may not force **2000AD** to improve, but what it may do is take all the older readership and better writers, relegating the Tooth to the status of juvenile comic unless they act now.

*While I hope others directly involved will reply in print, I have to mention that a UK published newsstand title like **Sandman** would have great difficulty finding its market in this age of retail confusion over what 'mature' titles are.*

Also DC titles are already cheap in this country (compared to $ prices and UK reprints) because they are export run-ons from the larger US print run. Colour printing ain't cheap, and would be prohibitively high just for a 10-20,000 audience.

*Besides, they'd have tough competition, unless you'd suggest outlawing the original editions as I once did with **X-Men 103-107**, but that's another story.*

Chris Duncan, 9 Ivinghoe View
Aylesbury, Bucks

After seeing the letter from Richard Hassell in **Comics International 8** asking for details of Australian comic shops, I had to write in.

I've just come back from living for 17 years in Australia. Although comics are not as big over there as in Britain and America, I know of three comic shops in Sydney.

Comic Kingdom, 71 Liverpool Street, Sydney 2000 (tel 267 3629)

Land Beyond Beyond, 583 George Street, Sydney 2000, New South Wales (tel 267 6279)

Kings Comics, somewhere on Elizabeth Street in an underground mall.

Hope this gets Richard started when he moves there.

John Mason
50A Gratton Road, London W14

I was reading in **Spellbound** 4 (March 1988) an ad for **The Official Marvel Comics Try Out**. Has this ever been imported into Britain, or should I write to America, as the ad didn't say anything about foreign orders.

Never risk writing in response to ads obviously out of date. The product you mention was morally dubious anyway. It was published during Jim Shooter's reign as Marvel's editor-in-chief and was, in effect, saying, "If you want to work for us, spend money on this expensive tryout title and send in samples".

Even with current ads, if you really want to reply, don't send postal orders, check the small print. If no details of overseas orders are mentioned, it's better not to write at all.

They might not be geared up for overseas and it will be tricky getting money back when dealing direct.

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Exchange signed comics for a choice from a 9-page list (at least 99% of which are vfn-nm/m). Send your lists of signed comics and a large S.A.E. to Roger, 5 Bramber, Cromer Street, London WC1. Please include on your lists comic title, issue number, condition, signer's name and relation to comic.

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Soulmates! European League (as seen in **Excalibur** 34). The Shadowcat and Magick Fan Club has now opened a European branch in this country and we are currently on a recruitment drive! Send an S.A.E. for details of the Club and look out for us at comic fairs throughout the country. Newsletter free to members and membership is free. Contributions of art, features, reviews, articles. Enquiries to Soulmates! European League, Unit 15, 25 Low Friar Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 5UE

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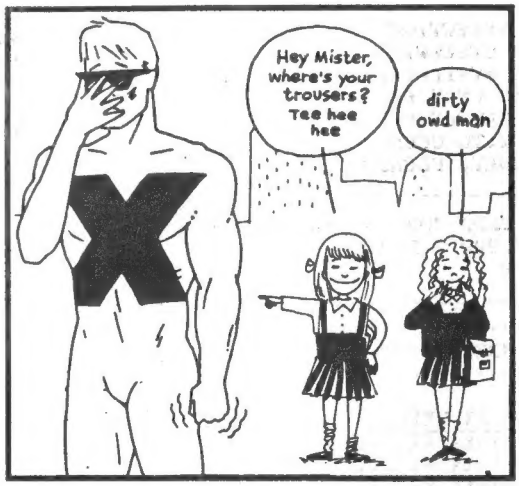

Mr Extra, on the brink of defeat once more at the hands of Jane(5½) and Tilly(6¾).

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EVENTS GUIDE

As an at-a-glance reference for readers, this listing gives the dates and locations on all forthcoming events advertised elsewhere this issue. A free service for advertisers, with bracketed number giving the advertising page, where further details can be found.

MAY

4/5 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Carrs Lane Church Centre. (p14)

5/5 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, WC1 (p19)

25/5 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p34)

JUNE

1/6 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane (p27)

8/6 **NEWCASTLE:** Comic Mart, Blackfriars Hall, New Bridge Street. (p14)

15/6 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace Special Edition Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, SW1 · (p12)

15/6 **EXETER:** Comic Mart, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street. (p26)

22/6 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, WC1 (p43)

29/6 **BIRMINGHAM:** Comic Mart, Carrs Lane Church Centre. (p14)

30/6 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street (p14)

JULY

6/7 **SHEFFIELD:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Main Hall, Sheffield Polytechnic, Howard Street. (p14)

13/7 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic, Film & Fantasy Mart, Blue-coat Chambers Concert Hall. (p37)

14/7 **LONDON:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, WC1 (p19)

20/7 **MANCHESTER:** Comic Mart, Parkers Hotel, Corporation Street (p34)

27/7 **LEEDS:** Comic Mart, Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane (p14)

AUGUST

3/8 **LONDON:** Comic Mart, T.U.C. Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, WC1 (p43)

4/8 **LIVERPOOL:** Comic Mart & Film Fair, Crest Hotel, Lord Nelson Street (p14)

stop press - news .

JIM STARLIN: The creator behind Marvel's **Infinity Gauntlet** multi-title cross over this summer has been given a free rein to resurrect another 'dead' hero. This time Captain Mar-vell, for a 1992 launch in his own title.

NAMOR: The John Byrne created Marvel title currently featuring the revived 'dead' hero, Iron Fist, will resolve itself when it turns out that the character is actually the Super Skrull.

X-BOOKS: Cyclops will lead The Uncanny X-Men, while Storm will lead the (new) X-Men. Wolverine is to leave because he can't get along with Charles Xavier, but will return by the end of the year. His own monthly will still have strong continuity ties to the other X-books.

NEW MUTANTS 87 sold at a New York con in quantity at $50 a copy. UK dealer copies being snapped up by Americans and their agents.

CONAN THE BARBARIAN is being cancelled by Marvel. The Jim Lee cover art issue increased sales by 40%, but title then suffered slump. Conan copyright licence being kept by reprints in **Savage Sword**, which has lower breakeven and better display being a magazine format.

All above late news is only speculative at moment, with no last-minute opportunity for confirmation. Thanks to Chris Klem for providing.

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